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Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2011

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.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p}	preliminary
^{r}	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E}	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published
*	significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2011: highlights

Section 1
Overview of family violence

- In 2011, police reported nearly 95,000 victims of family violence, representing a rate of 279 victims for every 100,000 individuals in the population.
- Most often, victims of family violence were in a spousal relationship with the accused, with about half of victims (49%) being currently or previously married to the accused. Another 18% of family violence victims were victimized by their parent, 13% by an extended family member, 11% by a sibling and 9% by a child, most often a grown child.
- Victims of family violence were predominantly female (69%). This disproportionate representation was most pronounced for spousal violence, as 80% of victims were female, but was also evident when the accused was a child (63%), extended family member (58%), parent (57%) and sibling (57%).
- Provincially, the highest rates of family violence were recorded in Saskatchewan (583 per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (402), while the lowest rates were recorded in Ontario (190), Prince Edward Island (227), Nova Scotia (246) and British Columbia (271).

Section 2
Family-related murder-suicides

- There were 344 murder-suicides in Canada between 2001 and 2011, of which more than three-quarters (77%) involved at least one victim that was related to the accused.
- Over the past 50 years, five-year average rates of family-related murder-suicide incidents have ranged between 0.6 and 1.2 incidents per million population. Despite annual fluctuations, the rate of family-related murder-suicides has generally been declining since peaking in the mid-1980s.
- Spouses accounted for the largest proportion of family-related murder-suicides committed between 2001 and 2011. Women and those aged 15 to 24 were at highest risk of being victims of spousal murder-suicide. In incidents of spousal murder-suicides, 97% of the accused were male.
- Shooting was the most common cause of death in spousal murder-suicides, with more than half (53%) of victims dying as a result of being shot. This was followed by stabbing at 22%.
- Between 2001 and 2011, there were 52 incidents of family-related murder-suicides involving children and youth. The rate of family-related murder-suicides against children and youth peaked in the late 1980s and has generally declined since.
- Parents and step-parents accounted for the majority (95%) of those accused of murder-suicides of children and youth, with other family members such as aunts and uncles accounting for the remaining 5%.
- Between 2001 and 2011, there were 47 family-related murder-suicides involving at least one senior victim. Unlike trends in family-related murder-suicides overall, the rate of murder-suicides against seniors have been increasing since the early 1990s.

Section 3
Intimate partner violence

- In 2011, there were approximately 97,500 victims of intimate partner violence, representing a rate of 341 victims per 100,000 population. The vast majority of these victims (80%) were women, a finding consistent over time.
- Overall, violence against dating partners was more prevalent than spousal violence, with a rate that was at least 1.6 times greater than spousal violence.
- As with violent crime overall, young Canadians were most often the victim of intimate partner violence. Women and men in their late 20s and early 30s had the highest rates of intimate partner violent victimization, followed closely by those aged 15 to 24 years. Rates generally declined with increasing age and were highest for women in every age group.
- Risk of spousal homicide, while relatively low, was elevated after separation from a legal marriage and among those in a common-law union.
- The majority of victims of intimate partner violence were physically assaulted in some way, though assaults were more common in incidents of spousal violence against a current partner than those against a previous one.
- The most frequently occurring type of offence against intimate partners—common assault—has decreased in recent years. Between 2009 and 2011, the rate of common assault fell by 4%.

Section 4
Family violence against children and youth

- In 2011, police reported approximately 18,300 child victims of family violence, representing a rate of 267 child victims for every 100,000 Canadians under the age of 18.
- While young children have the lowest rates of police-reported family violence against children, these children were most at risk of being killed by a family member. Over a ten-year period, infants under the age of one were most at risk of being killed by a family member, followed by toddlers and preschoolers aged 1 to 3.
- Girls are disproportionally represented as victims of family violence. In 2011, rates of family violence were 56% higher for girls than boys. Girls consistently experienced higher rates of family violence for nearly every type of violent offence. However, this risk was most marked for police-reported sexually-based offences.
- Rates of family-perpetrated physical assaults against children and youth have been relatively stable from 2009 to 2011, while rates of sexual assault have dropped over this same period.

Section 5
Family violence against seniors

- At a rate of 61 victims of family violence per 100,000 population, seniors aged 65 and older had the lowest rates of family-violence. This was seen for both men and women, though rates for senior women were higher than those for senior men (67 versus 53 per 100,000 population).
- Most often, grown children were responsible for family violence against seniors, followed by spouses.
- Common assault, in which little or no physical injury is caused to the victim, was the most common form of family violence against seniors. In total, common assaults accounted for over one-half (52%) of family violence incidents, followed by uttering threats (20%) and serious assaults (12%).
- The rate of physical and sexual assaults against seniors has remained stable over the past three years.

Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2011

Section 1: Overview of family violence

By Maire Sinha

Since 1998, as part of the federal Family Violence Initiative,[1] Statistics Canada has released an annual report that examines the nature and extent of family violence in Canada. Along with other goals, the Initiative serves to promote public awareness of the risk factors associated with family violence and aims to enhance data collection, analysis, research and evaluation efforts that inform policies and programs.

The annual *Juristat* article is designed to help monitor changes in family violence over time and identify emerging issues. Accordingly, each report presents trend data on the magnitude of the problem in Canada and profiles a different aspect of family violence. Previous annual reports have focused on such topics as criminal harassment/stalking (2005), criminal justice system responses to family violence (2004), shelters for abused women (2009), and a comparative analysis of family and non-family violence (2010). The special focus of this year's report is the prevalence and nature of family murder-suicides in Canada.

Defining family violence in Canada

Defining family violence is critical to accurately analyzing its prevalence and nature within Canadian society. While there is no universally accepted definition of family violence, two elements must be considered in any definition: the forms of violence to be included and the types of family relationships. Within the Family Violence Initiative, family violence has been conceptualized as "a range of abusive behaviours that occur within relationships based on kinship, intimacy, dependency or trust" (*Family Violence Initiative Performance Report, 2008*). This definition can encompass physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and financial victimization, or neglect. Within this article, analysis of violence within the family is primarily based on statistical data that are consistent with *Criminal Code* definitions.

Identifying the relationships for inclusion in a definition of family violence is also a question of scope. For the purpose of this article, the term 'family' refers to relationships defined through blood, marriage, co-habitation (in the case of common-law partners), foster care, or adoption. While there has been some consideration within the research community towards including dating violence in a definition of family violence due to its similarities with spousal violence, dating violence is not included in a definition of family violence within this report.[2] Rather, violence against dating partners is examined alongside spousal violence in the context of intimate partner violence.

Measuring family violence in Canada

There are two main Statistics Canada sources of information used to measure family violence in Canada: police-reported information from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey, and self-reported victimization data from the General Social Survey on Victimization. These data sources yield complementary yet different types of information on violence within families.

Every year, both the UCR Survey and the Homicide Survey collect data on all *Criminal Code* offences reported to, and substantiated by Canadian police services. These surveys are able to provide trend data and regional level information on family violence, as well as information on the characteristics of victims, accused and incidents.

1. The Family Violence Initiative is a horizontal collaboration of 15 federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations.
2. Last year's annual report on family violence explored the statistical impact of including dating violence within a definition of family violence. The exploration revealed differences in the overall prevalence of family violence depending on whether dating violence was excluded or included from a definition of family violence. For more information, see Sinha (2012).

In addition to police-reported data, estimating the prevalence of violent crime can be done using the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization, a self-reported victimization survey. Conducted every five years, this sample survey of Canadians aged 15 years and older captures both crimes that are reported and unreported to the police. In doing so, it is able to shed light on the levels of under-reporting to police. According to the most recent GSS (2009), less than one-third of incidents of violent victimization (29%) came to the attention of police (Perreault and Brennan 2010).

While the GSS is able to describe the range of consequences of victimization and victims' reliance of social supports, it has some disadvantages in estimating the level and nature of family violence. For instance, children under 15 years of age and individuals living in institutions, such as long-term care facilities, are not eligible to participate in the survey. Only official sources of information, such as reports from police, are able to yield information on violence against children under the age of 15, as well as those persons living in institutions. The survey also excludes Canadians who are unwilling or unable to participate in the survey.[3]

Organization of the report

Using police-reported data, the current report begins by profiling the overall prevalence of family violence in Canada, describing how it has changed over time. Also presented are regional variations and patterns in the nature of police-reported family violence in Canada. Next, the focus section describes the characteristics of family-related murder-suicides, highlighting trends, risk factors related to this form of homicide, the underlying motives, weapons (if any) used to commit the crime, and the characteristics of accused.

In keeping with previous years, the remainder of the report will profile three forms of violence: intimate partner violence (including both spousal and dating violence partners), family violence against children, and family violence against seniors aged 65 years and older.

Overview of family violence in Canada

Over the course of the previous 30 years, there have been substantial changes in the criminal justice system response and social intervention to family violence. Violent acts committed against family members, once considered private matters, are now recognized as serious violent crimes (Bala 2008; Schneider 2007).

While the *Criminal Code* does not contain separate violent offences based on the relationship of the victim and offender,[4] perpetrators of violent acts against family members can be charged with the appropriate criminal offence, such as homicide, assault, sexual assault, or criminal harassment. Further, the *Criminal Code* considers the abuse of a spouse or child or any position of trust or authority to be an aggravating factor at sentencing.

Other *Criminal Code* provisions can assist victims of family violence, including the availability of protection orders and the enhancement of testimonial aids for vulnerable victims (Justice Canada n.d.). Beyond the *Criminal Code*, some provinces[5] and all three territories have also adopted civil legislation specific to family violence. These pieces of legislation serve to provide additional supports and protection to victims of family violence.

Procedurally, police, courts, and corrections have also recognized the unique needs of victims and offenders of family violence. Criminal justice initiatives have included changes to policing protocols (such as pro-charging policies), domestic violence investigation units within police services including programs for dating partners, specialized training programs for police and Crown counsel, dedicated domestic violence courts, and family violence treatment interventions within correctional systems (Correctional Services of Canada n.d.; Public Health Agency of Canada 2008).

Victims of family violence represent one-quarter of all violent crime victims

In 2011, police reported nearly 95,000 victims of family violence, representing one-quarter (26%) of all victims of violent crime (Table 1.1). This translates into a family violence rate of 279 victims for every 100,000 individuals in the population.

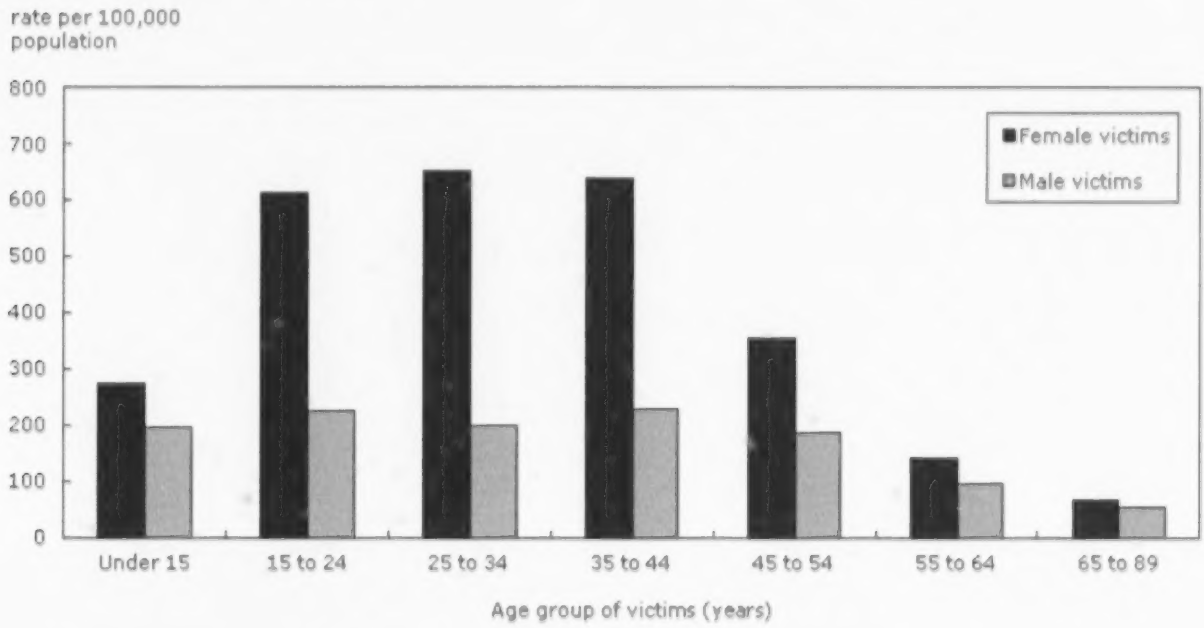
3. In 2009, the response rate for the GSS on Victimization was 61.6%. Types of non-response included respondents who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French.
4. There are a few exceptions such as incest (s. 155), parental child abduction (ss. 282 and 283) and polygamy (s. 293).
5. The provinces with civil legislation are Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Most commonly, victims of family violence were in a spousal relationship with the accused, with about half of victims (49%) being currently or previously married to the accused. These victims included those who were or had been in a legal or common-law union. Another 18% of family violence victims were victimized by their parent, 13% by an extended family member, 11% by a sibling and 9% by a child, most often a grown child.

Regardless of the type of family violence, victims were predominantly female. Overall, nearly seven in ten (69%) victims of family violence were female. This disproportionate representation was most pronounced for spousal violence, as 80% of victims were female, but was also evident when the accused was a child (63%), extended family member (58%), parent (57%) and sibling (57%).

Reflecting women's over-representation as spousal violence victims, female victims of family violence tended to fall between the ages of 15 to 44 years (Chart 1.1). On the other hand, for male victims of family violence, rates were similar between all age groups until the age of 55 years, when the rates subsequently drop. At age 55, grown children replace spouses as the most common perpetrator of violence against men aged 55 and older.

Chart 1.1
Victims of police-reported family violence, by sex and age group of the victim, Canada, 2011



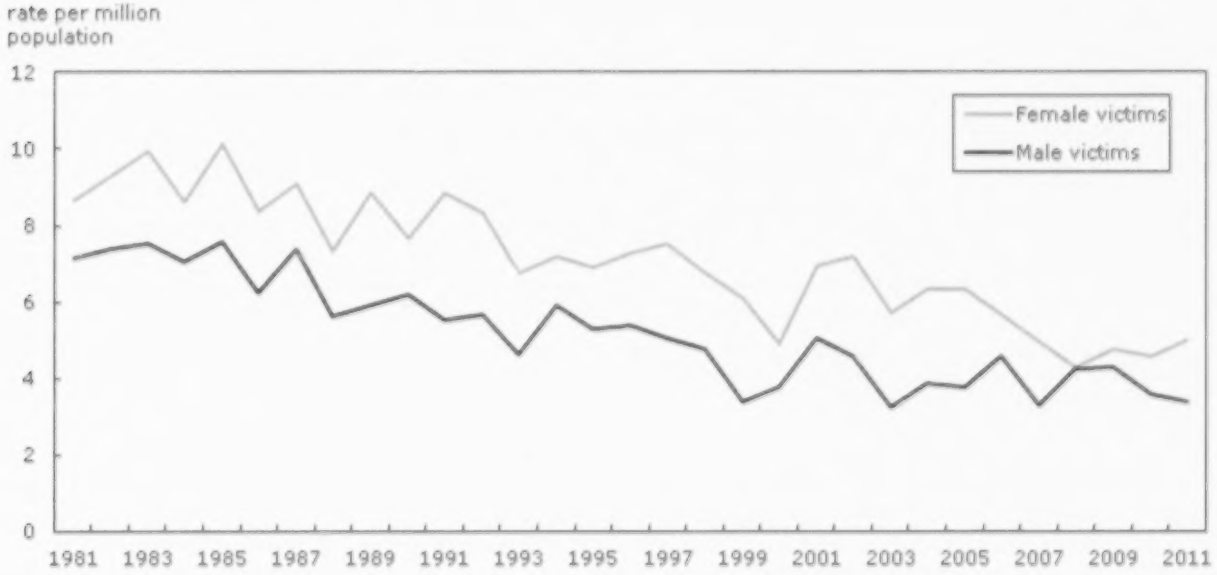
Note: Excludes incidents where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Police-reported rates of family violence generally decreasing

In general, monitoring changes in family violence over time can help to identify emerging trends, as well as informing the development and evaluation of programs, policy, criminal legislation, and various initiatives designed to reduce this form of violence. According to police-reported data, there is some indication that violence against family members is declining. Though relatively rare, homicides—often considered a barometer of violent crime overall—have been declining against family members over the previous 30 years (Chart 1.2). In 2011, the rate of family homicides per million was 47% lower than in 1981. This downward trend mirrors patterns in homicide overall and was the case for both female and male victims of family homicide.

Chart 1.2
Rate of family homicides, by sex of victim, 1981 to 2011



Note: Excludes incidents where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

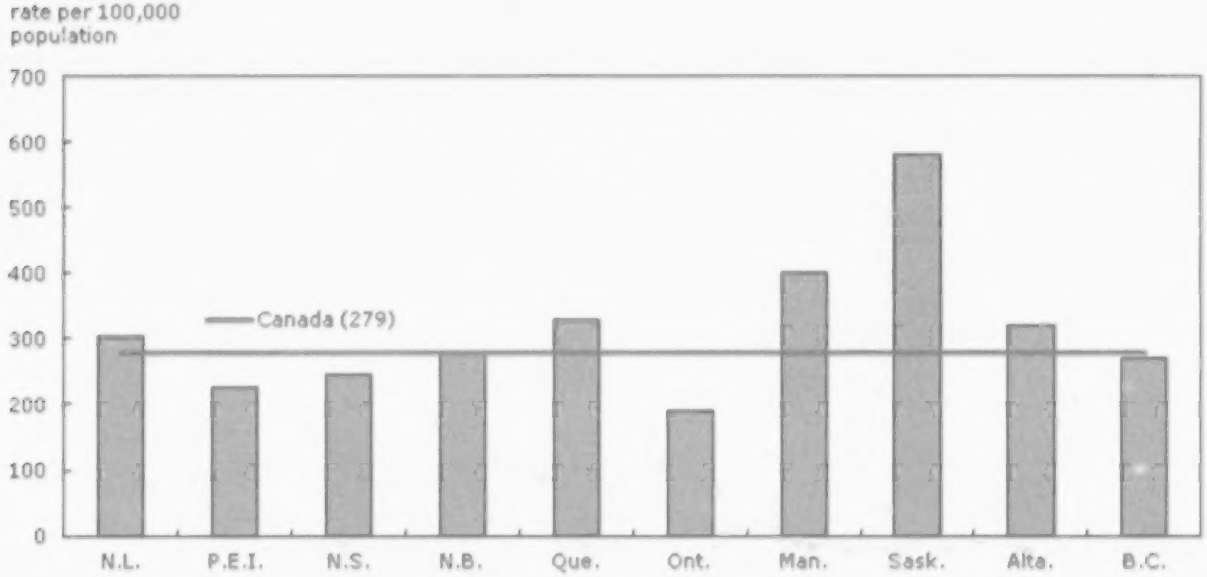
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Reported incidents of non-lethal forms of family violence have also seen decreases in recent years. For instance, the rate of attempted murders dropped 10% between 2009 and 2011 (Table 1.2). Smaller drops were also reported over this time period for physical assaults (levels 1, 2, and 3) and sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, and 3) against family members (-6% and -5%). Trends in non-lethal violence may reflect both actual changes in the occurrence of family violence in Canada and changes in the willingness of victims and witnesses to report these crimes to the police. For instance, in 2009, less than one-quarter (22%) of victims of self-reported spousal violence in the previous five years stated that police found out about the violence, according to data from the General Social Survey on victimization (Brennan 2011).

Manitoba and Saskatchewan record highest provincial rates of family violence

Similar to trends in overall crime, police-reported rates of family violence tend to be higher in the territories than in the provinces. In 2011, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut had rates that were about eight and twelve times higher than the national average. Provincially, the highest rates of family violence were recorded in Saskatchewan (583 per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (402) (Chart 1.3; Table 1.3). The lowest rates were recorded in Ontario (190), Prince Edward Island (227), Nova Scotia (246) and British Columbia (271).

Chart 1.3
Rate of police-reported violent crime against family members, by province, 2011



Note: Excludes incidents where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

For the second year in a row, the census metropolitan area (CMA) of Saint John, New Brunswick, recorded the highest rate of police-reported family violence in 2011 (Table 1.4). This was followed by Gatineau and Saskatoon. The lowest rates of family violence were found in the Ontario CMAs of Ottawa, Peterborough, St. Catharines-Niagara, Barrie, Guelph and London.

Most provinces record decrease in rates of physical assault

Declines or stability in rates of assaults, both physical and sexual,[6] have occurred in virtually all provinces. Compared to the previous year, New Brunswick recorded the largest drop in rates of physical assaults against family members, decreasing by 10% in 2011 (Table 1.3). Only Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia recorded an increase in family-related physical assaults among the provinces (+4% and +5%, respectively). As for sexual assaults, annual changes in rates against family members can vary widely, given that smaller counts are more susceptible to large increases or decreases. That said, except for Prince Edward Island, all provinces either experienced no change or a decrease in rates of sexual assaults between 2010 and 2011.

Nearly 6 in 10 victims of family violence were victims of common assault

As in previous years, common assault (level 1), the least serious form of physical assault, accounted for nearly 6 in 10 offences committed against family members in 2011 (Table 1.5). This was true for both male and female victims. The next most common offences were major assaults (levels 2 and 3) (14%) and uttering threats (12%).

6. Includes physical assault levels 1, 2, and 3 (respectively ss. 265, 266, and 268) and sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 (respectively ss. 271, 272, and 273).

While the types of offences were similar between female and male victims of family violence, there were two notable gender differences in the types of offences. In 2011, female victims experienced a higher proportion of sexual offences than did male victims (10% versus 4%). Conversely, male victims experienced a higher proportion of major assaults than female victims (19% versus 11%). It is noteworthy that even though family violence against men was more often characterized by major assault, female victims of family violence continued to have higher rates for major assault as well as other violent offences.

Less than one-half of family violence victims sustain physical injury

The physical consequences of family violence can range from no physical injury to the death of the victim. According to police-reported data, 44% of family violence victims sustained minor physical injury, meaning that they did not require professional medical treatment or required only first aid. An additional 2% were treated by a medical professional at the scene or were transported to a medical facility. Less than 1% of family violence victims died of their injuries. Most often, victims did not suffer any physical injury (54%).

When a physical injury was sustained, the accused most often used their own physical force, such as choking, punching or kicking the victim (84%), rather than a weapon (16%). This somewhat varied by gender of the victim, where male victims were more likely than female victims to be injured with a weapon (25% versus 12%).

Almost 6 in 10 incidents of police-reported family violence result in charges

Once the police respond to an incident of family violence, there are three possible outcomes: police may charge an accused, clear the incident in another way, such as through departmental discretion, or not clear the incident because of insufficient evidence.[7] In 2011, police laid charges in 56% of incidents involving family members. Charges were more commonly laid when the victim was female than male (61% versus 46%).

Overall, 28% of family violence incidents were cleared otherwise, with the complainant declining to support the laying of charges being among the top reasons, followed by departmental discretion and reasons beyond the control of the department. Less than 1% of all family violence incidents in 2011 ended in the accused taking their own life, half of which followed a homicide.

Summary

According to police-reported data, family violence continues to account for about one-quarter of violent crime in Canada, with violence against spouses being the most common form. Mirroring overall police-reported crime trends, violence against family members appears to be declining, as evidenced by decreases in both homicides and assaults.

Family violence was most often characterized by physical assaults against the victim and minimal to no physical injury to the victim. Most family violence incidents reported to police resulted in charges.

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7. An incident may also not be cleared when an accused has not been identified in connection with the incident. The incident may not be cleared at the time of reporting to the UCR Survey, but may be cleared by police at a later time. Updates to the clearance status on the UCR Survey are made accordingly.

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Detailed data tables

Table 1.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by sex of victim and relationship of the accused to the victim, Canada, 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total spouses	**37,297**	**19**	**9,120**	**5**	**46,417**	**12**
Current spouse[1]	26,271	14	6,323	4	32,594	9
Ex-spouse[2]	11,026	6	2,797	2	13,823	4
Other immediate and extended family	**28,290**	**15**	**20,132**	**11**	**48,422**	**13**
Parent[3]	9,613	5	7,122	4	16,735	4
Child[4]	5,379	3	3,133	2	8,512	2
Sibling[5]	5,917	3	4,471	2	10,388	3
Extended family[6]	7,381	4	5,406	3	12,787	3
Total victims of family violence	**65,587**	**34**	**29,252**	**16**	**94,839**	**25**
Dating partners[7]	41,280	22	10,462	6	51,742	14
Boyfriend/girlfriend	24,658	13	6,212	3	30,870	8
Ex-boyfriend/girlfriend	15,817	8	3,866	2	19,683	5
Other intimate partner	805	0	384	0	1,189	0
Close friend	7,474	4	7,881	4	15,355	4
Business relationship	6,216	3	9,869	5	16,085	4
Casual acquaintance	37,872	20	50,544	28	88,416	24
Criminal relationship[8]	437	0	1,816	1	2,253	1
Authority figure[9]	2,272	1	3,001	2	5,273	1
Stranger	30,730	16	67,512	37	98,242	26
Total victims of non-family violence	**126,281**	**66**	**151,085**	**84**	**277,366**	**75**
Unknown[10]	25	...	127	...	152	...
Total victims of violent crime[11]	**191,893**	**100**	**180,464**	**100**	**372,357**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Current spouse includes legally married and common-law partners aged 15 years and older.
2. Ex-spouse includes separated and divorced partners aged 15 years and older.
3. Includes a small number of victims under 18 years of age where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'child' (including 'step-child') and was therefore recoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent').
4. Includes a small number of victims aged 65 years and older where the relationship of the accused to the victim was miscoded as 'parent' (including 'step-parent') and was therefore recoded as 'child' (including 'step-child').
5. Sibling includes biological, step, half, foster or adopted brother or sister.
6. Extended family includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
7. Dating relationships include victims under 90 years of age, including dating partner victims under the age 15. The counts for dating partner victims do not match the information presented in section 3 of the report, which examines intimate partner violence for those aged 15 years and older.
8. Criminal relationship includes those relationships with the victim based on illegal activities, such as drugs or prostitution.
9. Authority figure includes persons in a position of trust or authority who is not a family member.
10. Unknown includes incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was reported by police as unknown.
11. Violent crime includes violations causing death, attempted murder, sexual assaults, assaults, robbery, criminal harassment, uttering threats and other violations involving violence or the threat of violence.
Note: Percentage calculations are based on incidents where the relationship between the victim and the accused was known. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.2
Rates of selected police-reported offences against family members, 2009 to 2011

Relationship of accused to victim/offence type	2009		2010		2011		Percent change 2009 to 2011
	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	
Spousal[2]							
Homicide[3]	65	0.2	65	0.2	66	0.2	-0.7
Attempted murder[4]	65	0.2	61	0.2	56	0.2	-15.9
Physical assault[4, 5]	36,916	134	35,569	127	34,915	123	-8
Sexual assault[4, 6]	815	3	849	3	833	3	0
Other family[7]							
Homicide[3]	88	0.3	75	0.2	79	0.2	-12.2
Attempted murder[4]	75	0.2	63	0.2	72	0.2	-6.0
Physical assault[4, 5]	32,119	97	34,636	103	31,379	93	-4
Sexual assault[4, 6]	5,156	16	5,291	16	4,977	15	-5
Total family							
Homicide[3]	153	0.5	140	0.4	145	0.4	-7.3
Attempted murder[4]	140	0.4	124	0.4	128	0.4	-10.4
Physical assault[4, 5]	69,035	208	67,205	201	66,294	196	-6
Sexual assault[4, 6]	5,971	18	6,140	18	5,810	17	-5

1. Rate per 100,000 population.
2. Spousal violence includes current and previous common-law and legally-married spouses. Rates of spousal violence are calculated based on the population aged 15 and older and not the spousal population. As a result, the rate is an underestimation and does not match spousal violence rates presented elsewhere in the report.
3. Based on the Homicide Survey.
4. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which represents 99% of police services in Canada. As a result, the numbers and rates may not match with totals presented elsewhere in the report.
5. Includes assault levels 1, 2, and 3.
6. Includes sexual assault levels 1, 2, and 3.
7. Other family includes children, parents, siblings, and extended family members.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses of attempted murder, physical assault and sexual assault due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey and the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 1.3
Rates of police-reported violent offences against family members, by province and territory, 2011

Province and territory	Total violent crime			Physical assaults (levels 1, 2, and 3)[1]			Sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, and 3)[1]		
	number	rate[2]	percent change in rate from previous year	number	rate[2]	percent change in rate from previous year	number	rate[2]	percent change in rate from previous year
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,548	305	...	1,101	217	4	90	18	-10
Prince Edward Island	328	227	...	215	149	-1	23	16	183
Nova Scotia	2,309	246	...	1,560	167	5	160	17	-9
New Brunswick	2,122	283	...	1,386	185	-10	160	21	-14
Quebec	25,887	328	...	16,419	210	-1	1,294	17	-15
Ontario	24,930	190	...	17,604	134	-1	1,897	14	0
Manitoba	4,856	402	...	3,588	297	-4	395	33	0
Saskatchewan	6,043	583	...	4,586	447	-5	377	37	2
Alberta	12,108	321	...	8,942	238	-4	664	18	-7
British Columbia	12,306	271	...	8,985	200	-4	623	14	-9
Yukon	300	867	...	254	734	22	13	38	0
Northwest Territories	1,005	2,304	...	826	1,894	4	36	83	-29
Nunavut	1,097	3,294	...	828	2,486	0	78	234	2
Canada	**94,839**	**279**	**...**	**66,294**	**196**	**-2**	**5,810**	**17**	**-6**

... not applicable
1. Based on the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database, which represents 99% of police services in Canada.
2. Rate per 100,000 population.
Note: Calculating annual percent change in the overall rate of family violence victims is not possible for two reasons: 1) differences over the years in the number of rejected victim records; and 2) differences in the victim record requirements for violent offences (i.e., not all violent offences require the submission of information on the victim characteristics, such as the accused-victim relationship) and possible variations in the distribution of these offences over the years. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 1.4
Victims of police-reported family violence, by census metropolitan area, 2011

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	Victims of family violence	
	number	rate[3]
Saint John	380	371
Gatineau[4]	1,094	352
Saskatoon	939	343
Kelowna	575	319
Montréal	12,076	311
Thunder Bay	359	302
Brantford	378	286
Edmonton	3,372	283
Trois-Rivières	418	282
Saguenay	405	280
Regina	615	279
Toronto[5]	10,649	260
Greater Sudbury	421	260
Moncton	338	246
Abbotsford-Mission	432	245
St. John's	453	241
Québec	1,780	237
Winnipeg	1,502	197
Vancouver	4,651	193
Calgary	2,429	192
Victoria	673	188
Halifax	758	187
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	980	186
Hamilton[6]	958	179
Kingston	281	176
Sherbrooke	331	175
Windsor	527	175
London	826	167
Guelph	198	158
Barrie	207	148
St. Catharines-Niagara	646	146
Peterborough	173	142
Ottawa[7]	757	81
CMA Total	**50,581**	**224**
Non-CMA Total	**42,660**	**412**
Canada[8]	**94,839**	**279**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
8. The total for Canada includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing multiple CMAs. These police services are not represented in the CMA or non-CMA totals and as a result, the total for Canada will not equal the sum of the CMAs and non-CMAs.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 1.5
Victims of police-reported violent crime by family members, by type of offence and sex of victim, Canada, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Victims of family violence	
Type of offence	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Homicide/attempts	164	0.3	123	0.4	287	0.3
Sexual offences[1]	6,240	10	1,183	4	7,423	8
Physical assault	45,419	69	22,372	76	67,791	71
Major assault (levels 2 and 3)[2]	7,185	11	5,610	19	12,795	13
Common assault (level 1)[3]	37,621	57	16,454	56	54,075	57
Other assaults[4]	613	1	308	1	921	1
Criminal harassment	3,342	5	674	2	4,016	4
Indecent/harassing phone calls	1,415	2	532	2	1,947	2
Uttering threats	7,197	11	3,910	13	11,107	12
Robbery	141	0	86	0	227	0
Other violent offences[5]	1,669	3	372	1	2,041	2
Total	**65,587**	**100**	**29,252**	**100**	**94,839**	**100**

1. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim. Also includes other sexual crimes such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, corrupting children, luring a child via a computer, and voyeurism.
2. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
3. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
4. Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, using firearm/imitation in commission of offence, pointing a firearm, assault against peace-public officer, and other assaults.
5. Includes criminal negligence causing bodily harm, trap likely to or causing harm, kidnapping, forcible confinement, hostage-taking, trafficking in persons, abduction, extortion, intimidation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death/bodily harm, arson and other violent violations.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Section 2: Family-related murder-suicides

By Shannon Brennan and Jillian Boyce

Although murder-suicides[1] in Canada are relatively rare, previous studies have shown that they frequently tend to involve members from the same family (Aston and Pottie Bunge 2005). Family-related murder-suicides represent the most fatal outcome of family violence. In addition to the deaths of at least two family members, they typically can have a devastating impact on members survived by the deceased as well as the surrounding community.

Since 1961, Statistics Canada has collected police-reported data on murder-suicide incidents, victims and accused persons through the Homicide Survey.[2] This section will present an overview of family-related murder-suicides in Canada for the period from 2001 to 2011. For the purpose of this report, murder-suicides are defined as any homicide incident that has been cleared by police as a result of the suicide of the accused.[3] Using data from the Homicide Survey, the prevalence and trends in family-related murder-suicides will be examined. In addition, this section will look at the more common types of family-related murder-suicides including murder-suicides in spousal relationships, murder-suicides of children and murder-suicides of seniors aged 65 and older.[4]

Prevalence and frequency of family-related murder-suicides

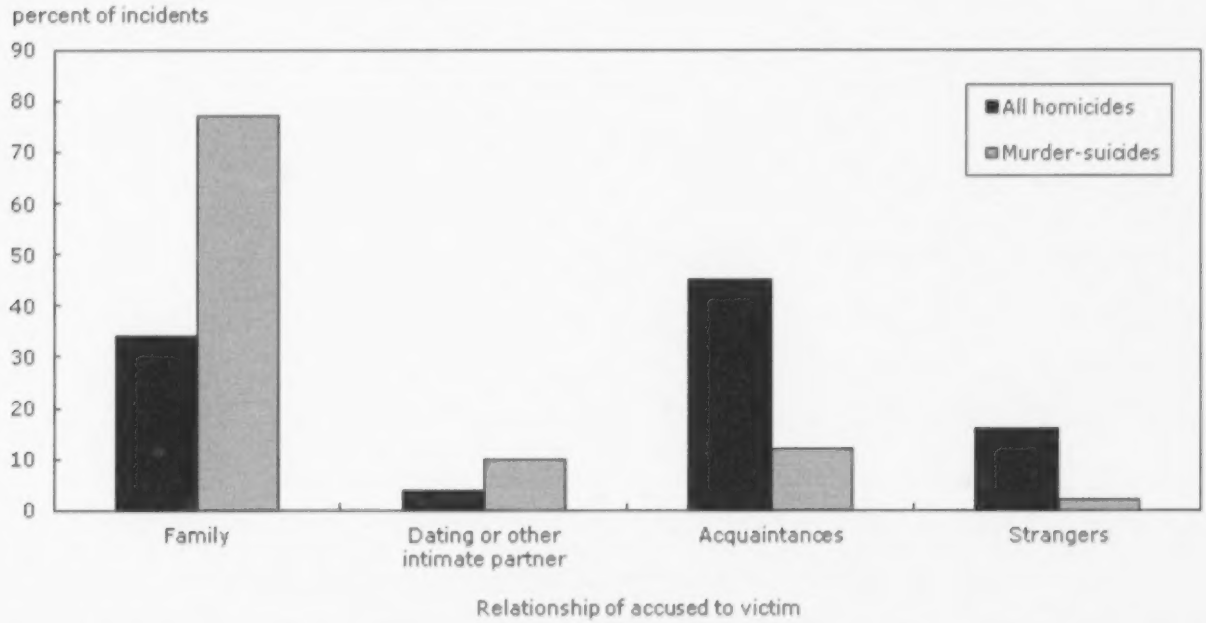
Males killing a spouse the most common form of murder-suicide

Between 2001 and 2011, there were 344 murder-suicides in Canada, which resulted in the deaths of 419 victims and 344 accused. The number of murder-suicide incidents accounted for 6% of all homicide incidents during that time.

Over the past 10 years, more than three-quarters (77%) of murder-suicide incidents involved at least one victim that was related to the accused (Table 2.1). This differs from patterns in homicide in general, where 34% were family-related (Chart 2.1).

1. For the purpose of this report, the term "murder-suicide" includes incidents of infanticide and manslaughter.
2. In 1974, the Homicide Survey expanded its data collection to include information on incidences of infanticide and manslaughter.
3. The suicide is not required to be committed within a certain time period following the homicide, but rather is contingent upon the reporting of it by police.
4. This section includes spousal murder-suicides where the victim was 65 years of age or older.

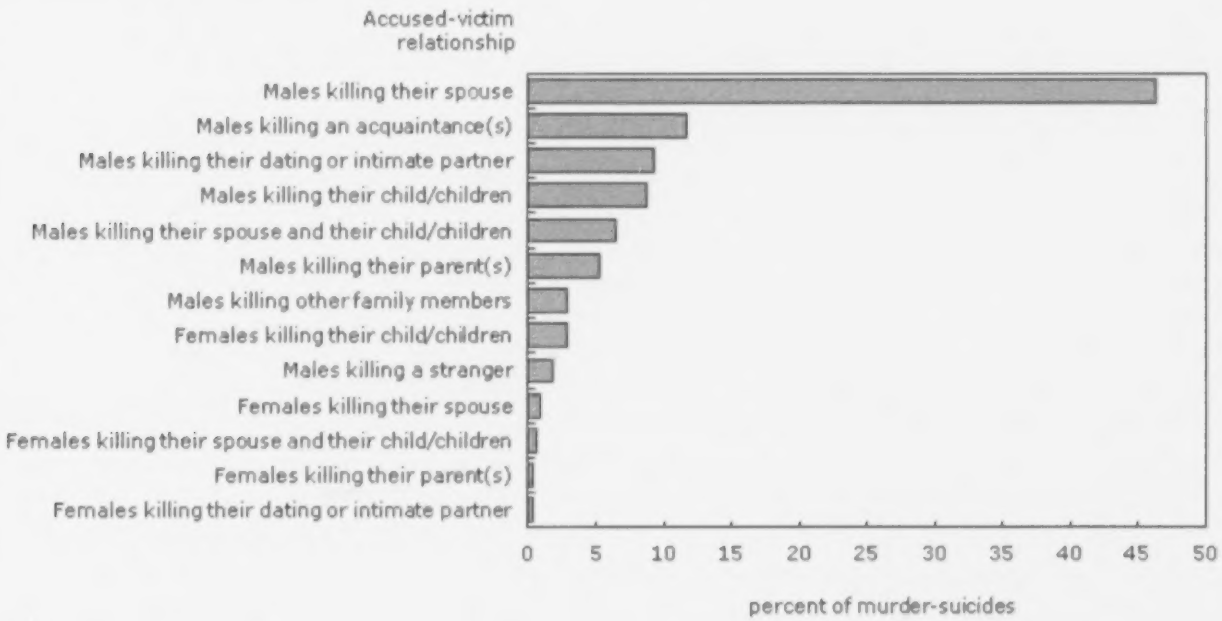
Chart 2.1
Homicide and murder-suicide incidents, by accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2001 to 2011



Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Overall, males accounted for a large majority (95%) of those accused of murder-suicide in Canada. The most common form of murder-suicide in Canada involved a male killing his spouse. Just over one-half (54%) of all murder-suicide incidents between 2001 and 2011 involved a male who killed a current or former legal or common-law spouse: 46% involved a spouse only and 6% involved a male killing a spouse and at least one of his children (Chart 2.2, Table 2.1).

Chart 2.2
Incidents of murder-suicide by accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2001 to 2011

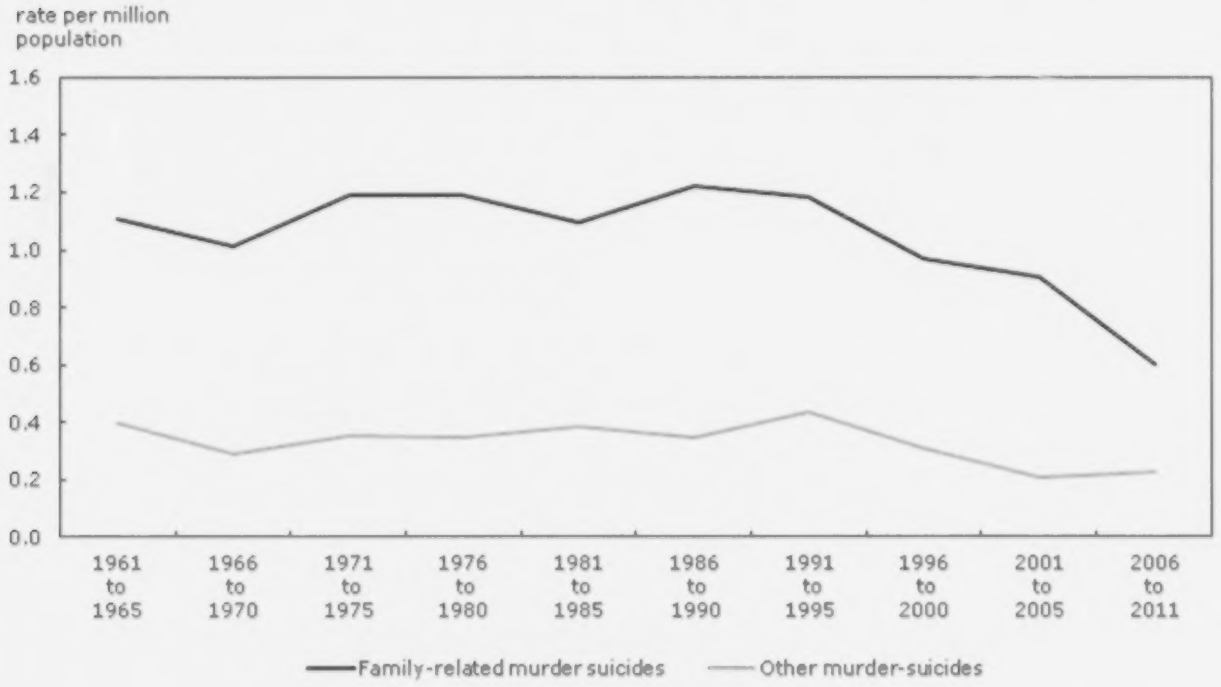


Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Rate of family-related murder suicides on the decline

Given the small number of murder-suicides and family-related murder-suicides that occur in Canada each year, the rate of these incidents is generally quite low. Over the past 50 years, five-year average rates of family-related murder-suicide incidents have ranged between 0.6 and 1.2 incidents per million population. While there have been annual fluctuations over this time period, the rate of family-related murder-suicides has generally been declining since peaking in the mid-1980s (Chart 2.3).

Chart 2.3
Incidents of murder-suicide, Canada, 1961 to 2011



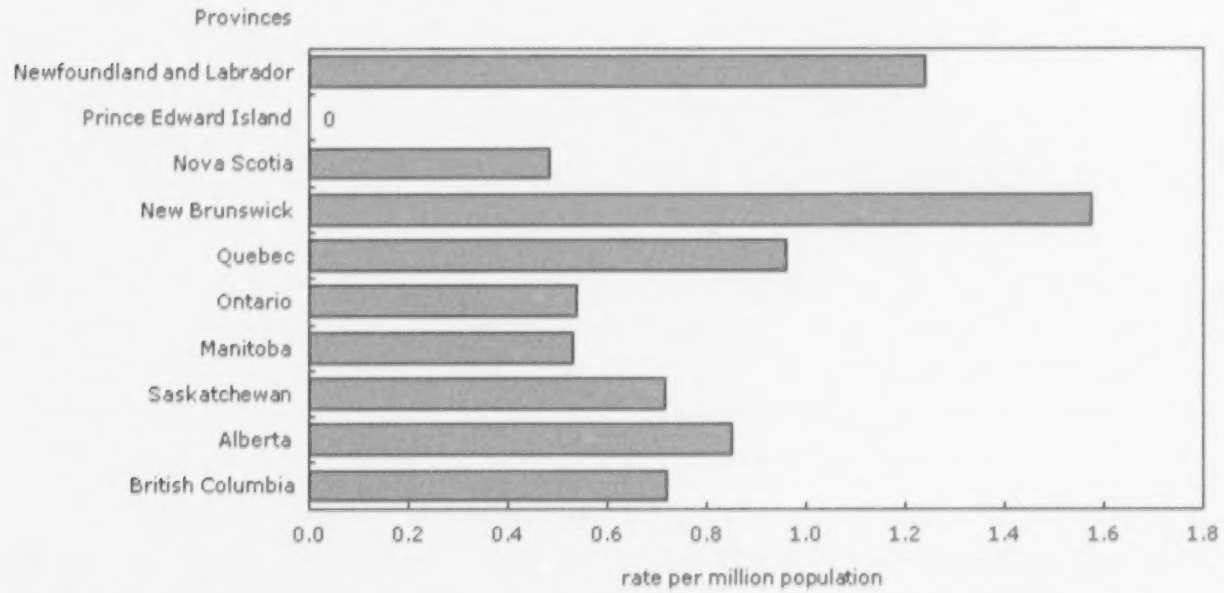
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The offences of manslaughter and infanticide were not recorded by the Homicide Survey prior to 1974.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Rate of family-related murder-suicides highest in New Brunswick

Homicide rates in Canada typically tend to be higher in the western provinces, particularly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and lower in the eastern provinces[5] (Brennan 2012). However, this did not hold true for family-related murder-suicides, as New Brunswick[6] reported the highest rate among the provinces, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador. Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Ontario reported among the lowest rates (Chart 2.4). Prince Edward Island was the only province to have no family-related murder suicides between 2001 and 2011.

5. Information pertaining to the Territories has been excluded as a result of low counts.
6. There were 13 family-related murder-suicides in New Brunswick between 2001 and 2011.

Chart 2.4
Incidents of family-related murder suicide, by province, 2001 to 2011



Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

The majority of family-related murder-suicides involved just one victim (82%) while 13% involved 2 victims and 6% involved three or more.[7] Murder-suicides of family members were more likely, however, to have multiple victims than were non-family-related murder suicides. Whereas 18% of family-related murder-suicides involved 2 or more victims, the same was true for 9% of murder-suicides which did not involve family members.

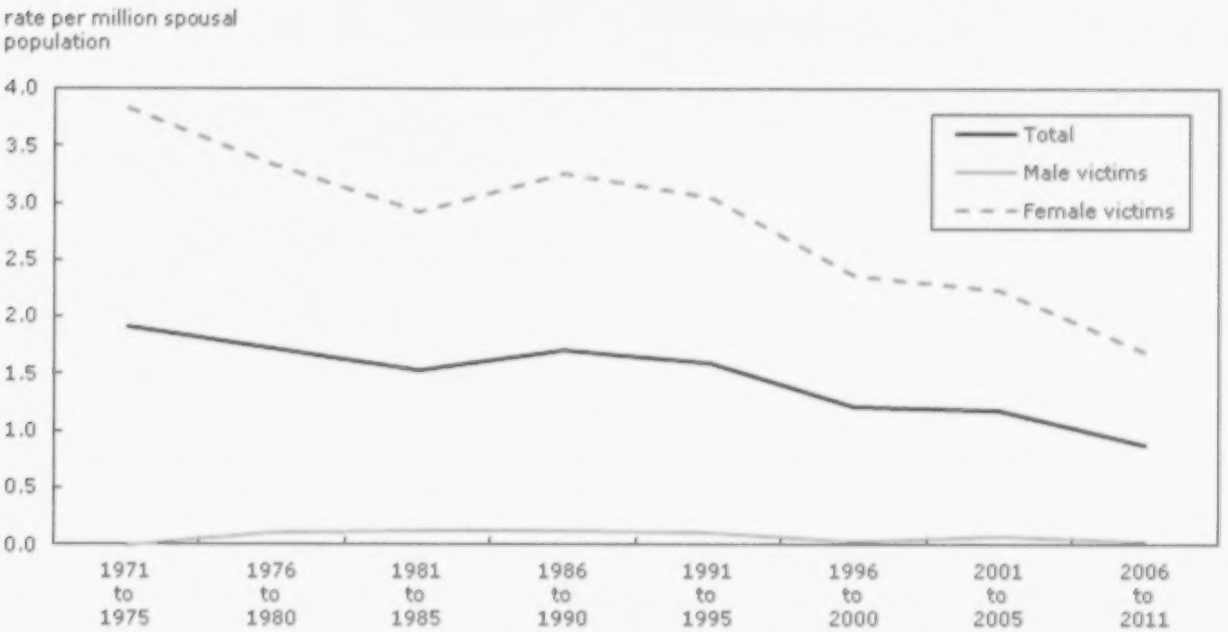
Spousal murder-suicides

Spouses accounted for the largest proportion of family-related murder-suicides committed between 2001 and 2011. Spousal murder-suicides include all those committed by persons in legal marriages and common-law relationships in addition to those who are divorced or separated from legal or common-law unions.

Between 2001 and 2011, there were 195 victims of spousal murder-suicides, virtually all of whom (97%) were female. Looking at the trend over the past 40 years,[8] female victims have consistently experienced substantially higher rates[9] of spousal murder-suicides (Chart 2.5).

7. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
8. Rates were calculated from 1971 due to the availability of spousal population data.
9. For more information on the calculation of rates, refer to Text box 3.1.

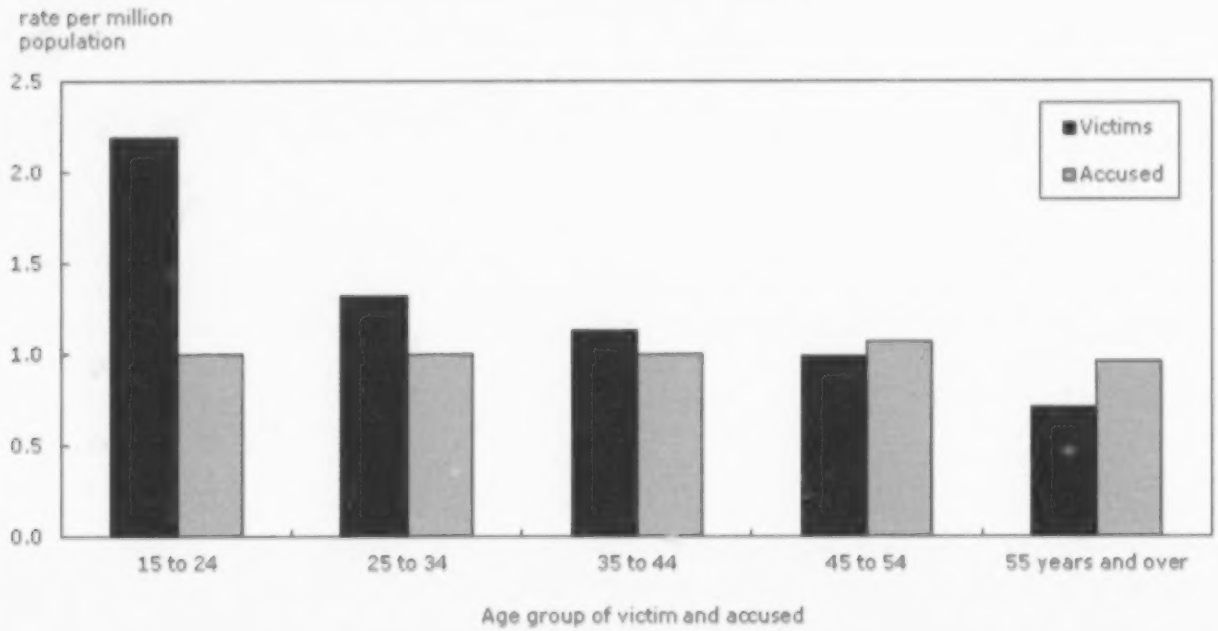
Chart 2.5
Victims of spousal murder-suicides, by sex, Canada, 1971 to 2011



Note: Rates were calculated from 1971 due to the availability of spousal population data. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 spousal population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The offences of manslaughter and infanticide were not recorded by the Homicide Survey prior to 1974. Includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes homicides of same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of population data on same-sex couples. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Mirroring victimization trends in general, rates of spousal murder-suicide victims were highest among those between the ages of 15 to 24 years, and decreased with age. More specifically, the rate of spousal murder-suicide among victims aged 15 to 24 was more than double the rate of those aged 55 and older (2.2 per 1,000,000 spousal population versus 0.7 per 1,000,000 population)(Chart 2.6).

Chart 2.6
Victims and accused of spousal murder-suicides, by age group, Canada, 2001 to 2011



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 spousal population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes homicides of same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of population data on same-sex couples. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Rates of those accused of spousal murder-suicides remained fairly stable across every age group (Chart 2.6).The vast majority of those accused of spousal murder-suicides between 2001 and 2011 were male (97%).

Most victims of spousal murder-suicides killed by a current partner

Similar to trends in spousal homicide overall, most victims of spousal-murder suicides were killed by a current rather than an ex-spouse. More specifically, between 2001 and 2011, close to three-quarters of spousal-murder suicide victims were killed by a legal or common-law spouse: one-half (49%) were legally married while 23% were in a common-law relationship. A further 26% were separated and the remaining 3% were divorced.

Many accused have a history of family violence

Previous studies have shown that spousal homicides are often precipitated by other forms of violence prior to the incident (Sinha 2012). The same was true among spousal murder-suicides. In close to 4 in 10 (39%) spousal murder-suicide incidents, the accused had a known history with police of previous incidents of family violence. Moreover, certain spousal relationships were more likely than others to have a known history of family violence. For example, murder-suicides committed by separated spouses were more than twice as likely as those committed by legally married spouses to have had a known history of family violence (56% versus 26%) (Table 2.2).

Drug and alcohol consumption more common among accused than victims

Earlier research has shown that drug and alcohol use by the accused is often a factor in violent crime, and spousal-related violence in particular (Mihorean 2005). In total, 41% of accused in spousal murder-suicide incidents were found to have ingested either alcohol and/or drugs prior to committing the spousal homicide.[10] This proportion was, however, lower than spousal homicides not ending in the suicide of the accused, as more than two-thirds (67%) of accused in these incidents were believed to have consumed either drugs or alcohol. That said, those accused of spousal murder-suicide incidents who were in a common-law relationship were more likely to have consumed drugs or alcohol while those who were legally married were less likely (62% versus 27%).

Compared to those accused of spousal murder-suicide, alcohol and drug use was less common among victims. In total, just under one-quarter (24%) of spousal murder-suicide victims consumed any type of drug or alcohol prior to the incident. This varied by relationship type, as 41% of victims in common-law relationships had consumed alcohol or drugs, compared to 18% of victims who were separated and 22% of victims who were married.

Shooting the most common cause of death in spousal murder-suicides

The most common cause of death among spousal murder-suicide victims between 2001 and 2011 was shootings. This varied from non-suicide spousal homicides, where the most common cause of death was stabbings. In total, more than one-half (53%) of spousal murder-suicide victims died as a result of being shot. Other causes of death included stabbings (22%), strangulation, suffocation or drowning (14%), beatings (7%) and other causes such as poisonings or burns (4%) (Table 2.3).

In total, 101 spousal victims of murder-suicide were shot to death between 2001 and 2011, of which over 7 in 10 (71%) were shot by a rifle or shotgun, while the remaining 29% were killed with a handgun. These proportions are similar among victims of spousal homicides where the accused did not commit suicide.

In most cases of spousal murder-suicide, the firearm used belonged to the accused (73%) or to a person other than the victim (25%). The firearm belonged to the victim in just 2% of cases.[11] In addition, over one-half (52%) of spousal murder-suicide victims were killed with a firearm that did not have a valid license.[12]

Similar to victims of spousal homicide where the accused did not commit suicide, most victims of spousal murder-suicides were killed in a private residence, regardless of the type of relationship. Over 9 in 10 victims (91%) were killed in a residence, with the remaining 9% being killed in various locations, including in vehicles, on streets and in public places. Of those who were killed in a private residence, 73% were killed in the residence they shared with the accused, 19% were killed in their own residence, 5% were killed in the accused's residence and 3% were killed in a residence belonging to someone other than the victim or accused.

Arguments, frustration, anger or despair most common motive in spousal murder-suicides

Although the motive of the homicide is not relevant for establishing the offence, there were many motives cited by police for spousal murder-suicides committed between 2001 and 2011. The most frequently cited motive was an argument between the victim and accused, or feelings of frustration, anger or despair on the part of the accused (61%), followed by jealousy or revenge (27%).

There were variations in motive depending on the type of spousal relationship. Jealousy or revenge accounted for the primary motive in close to one-half (48%) of murder-suicides involving separated spouses, compared to 13% involving legally married spouses (Table 2.4). Financial gain or protection of assets was only cited as a motive among current partners, and was not cited as a factor in murder-suicides involving former spouses.

10. This proportion excludes 73 accused where it was unknown if they had consumed alcohol or drugs. Expressed as a percentage, this represents 37% of all persons accused of a spousal murder-suicide between 2001 and 2011. As a result, these figures should be used with caution.
11. The calculation of these proportions excludes unknowns. In total, there were 13 spousal-murder-suicides where the ownership of the firearm was unknown.
12. The calculation of these proportions excludes unknowns. In total, there were 8 murder-suicides where the licensing information of the firearm was unknown.

Separation a common theme in several spousal murder-suicides

In addition to collecting information on the characteristics of the victim, accused, and incident, the Homicide Survey also contains a narrative section in which the reporting police officer can share additional details about the homicide – or in this case, the murder-suicide. While the majority of police services provide a narrative for each incident report, the level of detail can vary considerably. Despite these variations, the additional information does allow for the possible identification of common themes in family-related murder-suicides that may not be captured through the remainder of the questionnaire.

In total, there were 162 narratives providing additional details about spousal murder-suicide incidents.[13,14] Separation was a common theme found within the spousal murder-suicide narratives. One-half of the spousal narratives mentioned that the couple had either separated (26%), were in the process of separating (9%) or had expressed a desire to separate (15%). In situations where there was a desire to separate, in 8 out of 10 instances, it was the victim who had expressed this desire.

Text box 2.1
Murder-suicides of dating and other intimate partners

In addition to looking at murder-suicides in spousal relationships, it is possible to examine the number of murder-suicides that occur between dating and other intimate partners. Dating partners can range from current and previous boyfriends and girlfriends, to those engaged in a sexual relationship or extra-marital affairs. While dating partners do not fall under the scope of family violence, previous studies have shown that victims of dating violence share many similar characteristics to victims of spousal violence (Hotton Mahony 2010).

In total, there were 32 murder-suicides of dating or other intimate partners between 2001 and 2011, representing a rate of 0.3 per 1,000,000 population.[15,16]

As with victims of dating violence in general, victims of dating murder-suicides tended to be older than victims of violence in general. For example, while rates of violence generally tend to peak among those aged 15 to 24, rates of dating murder-suicide were highest among victims aged 35 to 44 (0.6 per 1,000,000). As with other forms of violence, rates of dating murder-suicide were lowest among victims aged 55 and older (0.1 per 1,000,000 population).

One-half (50%) of all dating murder-suicides between 2001 and 2011 were committed by an ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend of the victim, while close to one-third (31%) were committed by a current boyfriend or girlfriend. The remaining dating murder-suicides were committed by extra-marital lovers (6%) and other intimate partners (13%).

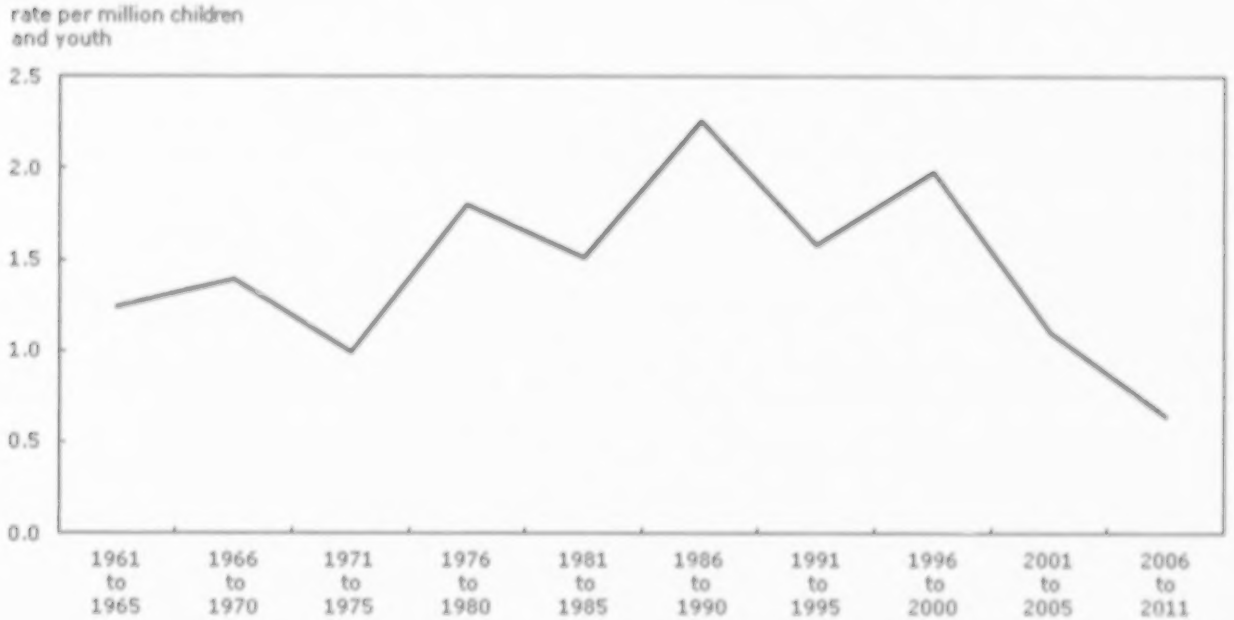
Similar to spousal murder-suicides, the vast majority of those accused of dating murder-suicides were male (97%). Rates of dating murder-suicide were highest among accused aged 45 to 54 (0.5 per 1,000,000 population) and lowest among those aged 15 to 24 (0.1 per 1,000,000 population).

Family-related murder-suicides of children and youth

Between 2001 and 2011, there were 52 incidents of family-related murder-suicides involving children and youth.[17] In total, these incidents resulted in the deaths of 66 children aged 17 years or younger. The rate of family-related murder-suicides against children and youth peaked in the late 1980s and has generally declined since. The average rate from 2006 to 2011 is the lowest since data collection began in 1961 (Chart 2.7).

13. Based on 162 single victim spousal-related murder-suicides that occurred between 2001 and 2011.
14. The total amount of narratives analysed was slightly less than the total number of spousal murder-suicides since not all incidents included a narrative.
15. Excludes the population of Canadians who were legally married or living in a common-law relationship.
16. Excludes 1 victim under 15 years of age.
17. Child victims refer to victims aged 0 to 11, while youth victims refer to victims aged 12 to 17.

Chart 2.7
Child and youth victims of family-related murder-suicide, Canada, 1961 to 2011



Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The offences of manslaughter and infanticide were not recorded by the Homicide Survey prior to 1974.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

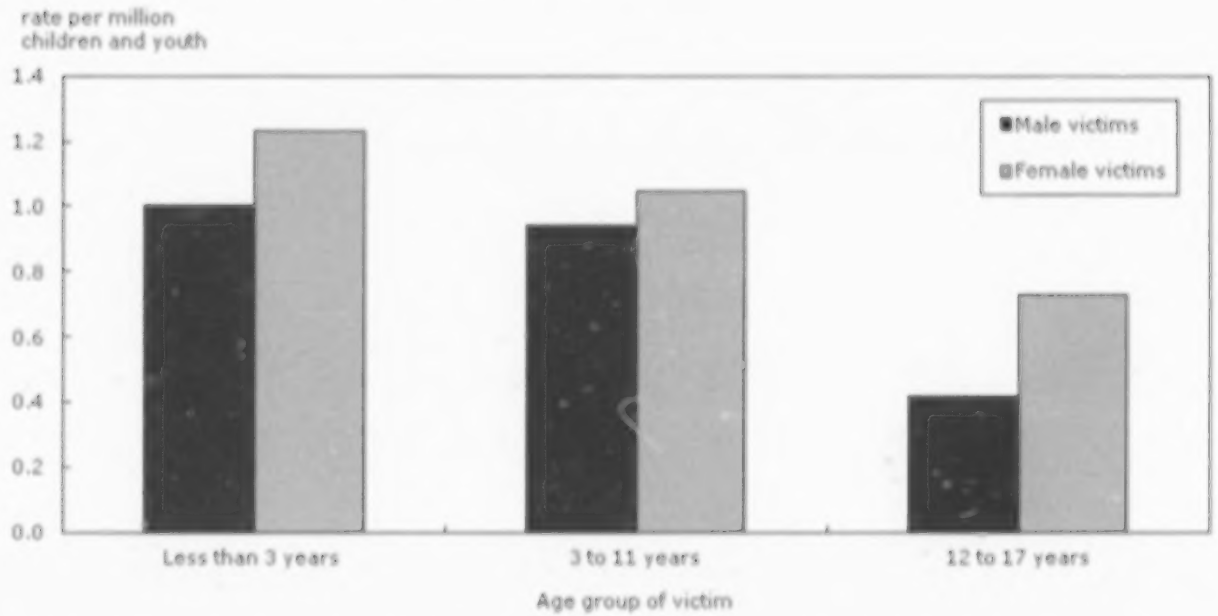
More than one-half (52%) of all family-related murder-suicides of children and youth involved multiple victims. In total, 48% of homicides involved a sole victim, 29% involved 2 victims, while 23% involved 3 or more victims. Where an incident involved multiple victims, the other victims were most likely the spouse of the accused, or another child of the accused.

Infants and toddlers at highest risk of family-related murder-suicides

Studies have shown that a child's risk of experiencing family violence, and familial homicide in particular, varies by both the age and the sex of the child (Sinha 2012; Sinha 2011; Taylor-Butts and Porter 2011). This was also found to be true among murder-suicides of children and youth.

In general, a child's risk of being the victim of a murder-suicide decreased with age. Infants and toddlers, those 2 years old and younger, were the most likely of all children to be the victim of a murder-suicide between 2001 and 2011, while youth (ages 12 to 17) were the least likely. Girls were more likely than boys to be the victim of a family-related murder-suicide, regardless of their age (Chart 2.8).

Chart 2.8
Child and youth victims of family-related murder-suicide, by age and sex of victim, Canada, 2001 to 2011



Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Majority of child and youth murder-suicide victims killed by parents

Parents and step-parents accounted for the majority (95%) of those accused of family-related murder-suicides of children and youth, with other family members such as aunts and uncles accounting for the remaining 5% (Table 2.5).

The relationship between the victim and the accused varied depending on the age-group of the victim. For example, in comparison to older children, infants and toddlers tended to be killed by their father or step-father. In contrast, children aged 3 to 11 were more likely than toddlers to be killed by their mothers or step-mothers (Table 2.5).

Most accused of family-related murder-suicides of children and youth were male

Between 2001 and 2011, males were most often the accused in family-related murder-suicides of children and youth (79%). Persons aged 35 to 44 accounted for almost 4 in 10 (38%) accused of killing a child or youth. This was followed closely by those aged 25 to 34 (37%) and those aged 45 to 54 (21%). Older family members, those aged 55 and over, accounted for just 4% of those accused of a murder-suicide of a child or youth. It should be noted that over the ten-year time period, none of the accused were under the age of 25.

Similar to spousal-related murder-suicides, most family-related murder-suicides involving children as victims occurred in a private residence[18] (83%).

18. Includes hotels, motels and bed-and-breakfasts.

Shooting the most common cause of death in murder-suicides of children and youth

The most common cause of death among child and youth victims of family-related murder-suicides was shootings (29%), followed by strangulation, suffocation or drowning (23%), stabbings (17%), poisoning (14%), beatings (6%) and other causes such as smoke inhalation (12%) (Table 2.6).

That said, the most common cause of death for children and youth varied based on the victim's relationship with the accused. For instance, 35% of child and youth victims killed by a father or step-father were shot to death. In contrast, no victims who were killed by their mothers died as a result of being shot. The most common cause of death among child and youth victims killed by their mothers was poisoning (42%) (Table 2.6).

Jealousy a common motive in murder-suicides of children and youth killed by fathers

In general, arguments and frustration, anger or despair was the most commonly cited motive for murder-suicides involving children, accounting for over two-thirds (69%) of all motives. The next most commonly cited motive was revenge or jealousy (24%). In 6% of murder-suicides involving children and youth victims, there was no apparent motive for the killing (Table 2.7).

Motives varied slightly by the relationship of the victim and the accused. Jealousy was cited more frequently as a motive in murder-suicides involving children when the accused was their father. In total, 28% of murder-suicides where the father was the accused occurred as a result of jealousy, compared to 9% of murder-suicides where the accused was the victim's mother (Table 2.7).

Relationship dissolution a theme within parent-child murder-suicides

In total, there were 25 homicide narratives which provided additional details of murder-suicides where the victim was the accused's child.[19] As with spousal murder-suicides, the dissolution of a relationship[20] was also a prominent theme within the narratives of parent-child murder-suicides. Just over three quarters (76%) of the parent-child murder-suicide narratives noted that the accused had experienced some sort of marital or intimate partner relationship problem at the time of the murder-suicide. Within these particular cases, about half of the accused were having a custody issue (53%) and in 32% of cases the accused was recently separated or in the process of getting divorced.[21]

Murder-suicides of grown children

As previously established, most murder-suicides involving victims 17 years of age and younger were committed by parents or step-parents. That said, not all victims who were killed by a parent were under the age of 18. Between 2001 and 2011, there were 17 murder-suicides where a parent or step-parent killed their grown child, aged 18 years of age and older.

Overall, the rate of murder-suicide for grown children was fairly low (0.1 victims per 1,000,000 population between 2001 and 2011). Unlike other forms of family-related murder-suicide, males and females were at equal risk of being a victim.

19. Refers to incidents where the child was 17 years or younger.
20. Refers to marital or intimate partner relationships.
21. Categories were not mutually exclusive. There were some incidents where the accused was recently separated, as well as having custody issues.

Text box 2.2
Mental illness and murder-suicides

Understanding the role of mental illness in murder-suicides is extremely complex. Since accused cannot be interviewed or evaluated, presence of mental illness in a murder-suicide is often determined in other ways, such as records of prior psychiatric treatment, a psychiatric diagnosis given by a mental health or medical professional, or interviews with those closest to the deceased. These methods inevitably have limitations, which can include uncertainty of an active mental illness at the time of the murder-suicide or underestimation of mental illness as a result of no record of previous treatment/diagnosis (Moskowitz et al. 2006).

Consequently, the relationship between murder-suicides and mental illness continues to remain unclear, with many experts expressing different positions on the issue. Literature on the prevalence of mental illness in murder-suicide shows considerable variation with rates ranging from 15% to 91% (Moskowitz et al. 2006). Variations in prevalence rates are often the result of different definitions utilized for mental illness or different typologies of murder-suicide under analysis (Moskowitz et al. 2006).

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on the mental state of the accused at the time of the homicide. Since that time, the investigating police officer has been able to indicate if the accused had a confirmed or even suspected history of mental illness or other developmental disorder, such as depression or schizophrenia. It should be noted however, that this information is an assessment made by the police officer, and may not be based on a diagnosis from a medical practitioner.

Between 2001 and 2011, police reported that close to one in five family-related murder-suicides in Canada involved an accused who may have had a mental illness. More specifically, in 19% of family-related murder-suicide incidents, the police reported that the accused had a mental illness, while in another 6% of murder-suicides, police suspected that the accused was mentally ill. As these figures are based on police-reported data, the prevalence may differ from assessments by medical practitioners.[22]

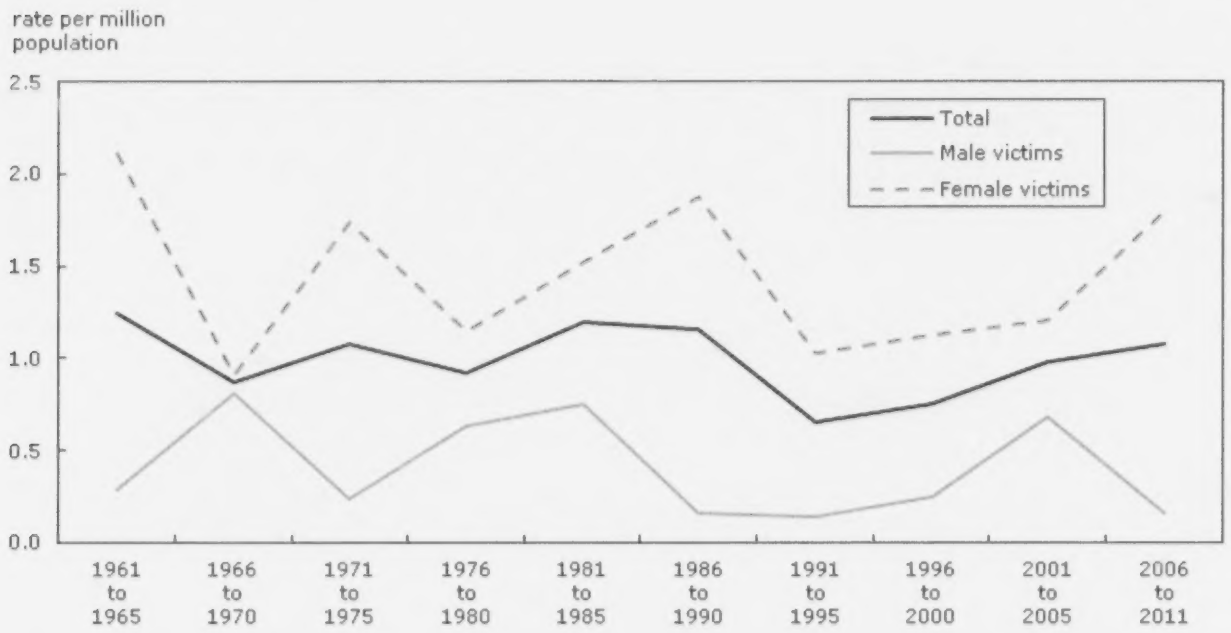
Family-related murder-suicides of seniors

Between 2001 and 2011, there were 47 family-related murder-suicides involving at least one senior victim. In total, these incidents resulted in the deaths of 50 victims aged 65 and older.

The rate of family-related murder-suicides of seniors has fluctuated annually over the past 50 years. However, unlike trends in family-related murder-suicides overall, murder-suicides against seniors have been increasing since the early 1990s (Chart 2.9).

22. The presence of mental illness was recorded as "unknown" for 27% of those accused of a family-related murder-suicide between 2001 and 2011.

Chart 2.9
Senior victims of family-related murder-suicide, by sex of victim, Canada, 1961 to 2011



Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 senior population (65 years and older). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The offences of manslaughter were not recorded by the Homicide Survey prior to 1974.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

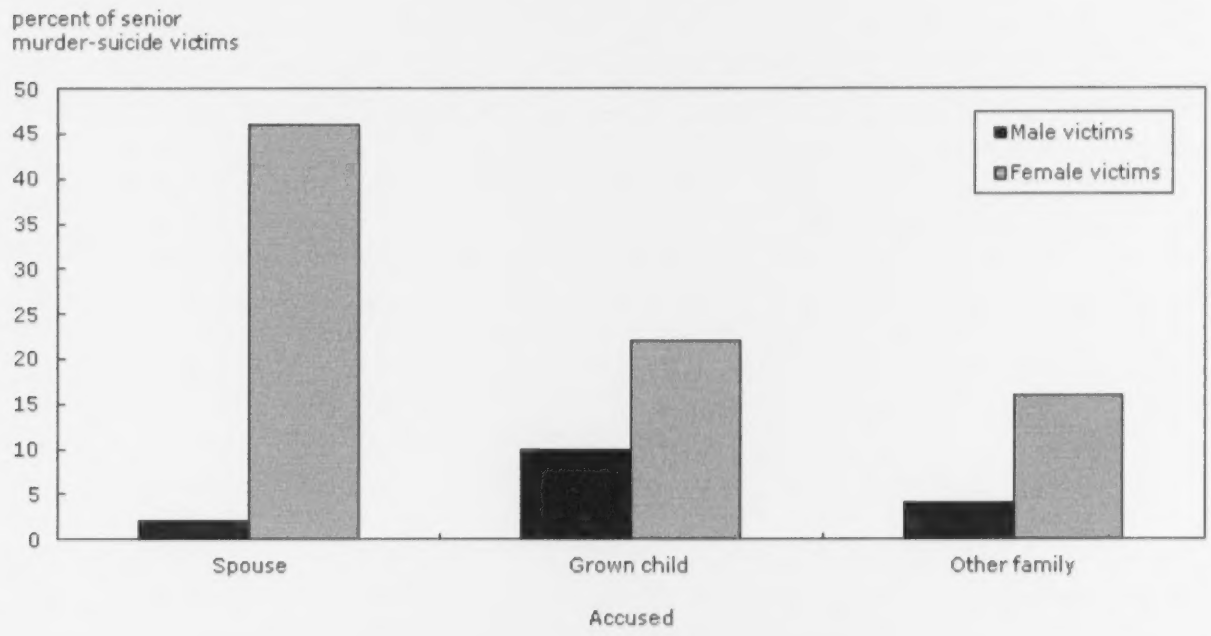
Senior women at higher risk of family-related murder-suicide compared to senior men

Senior women were much more likely than senior males to have been the victim of a family-related murder-suicide between 2001 and 2011. More than 8 in 10 (84%) senior victims were women, while the remaining 16% were men. Between 2001 and 2011, the rate of family-related murder suicides among women was four times higher than the rate for senior men (1.5 per 1,000,000 population versus 0.4 per 1,000,000 population), a trend which has remained fairly consistent over the past 50 years (Chart 2.9).

Senior victims of murder-suicide most likely to be killed by their spouse

In general, senior victims of family-related murder-suicide were most commonly killed by a spouse. Close to one-half (48%) of senior victims were killed by a spouse, while 32% were killed by their grown child, and 20% were killed by another family member, such as a sibling. There were differences among male and female victims, as females were more likely to be killed by a spouse, whereas males were more likely to be killed by a grown child (Chart 2.10).

Chart 2.10
Senior victims of family-related murder-suicide, by accused-victim relationship and sex of victim, Canada, 2001 to 2011



Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

The overwhelming majority (98%) of people accused of killing a family member age 65 and older in a murder-suicide were male. In addition, just over one-half (53%) of people accused of killing a senior in a family-related murder-suicides were seniors themselves.

Shootings most common cause of death among senior murder-suicide victims

As was the case with other forms of family-related murder-suicide, the most common cause of death among senior victims was shootings. Close to one-half (46%) of all senior victims died as a result of being shot, while the remainder died as a result of being stabbed (24%), beaten (14%), strangled, suffocated or drowned (14%).

There were, however, variations in the cause of death based on the relationship between the victim and the accused. For example, senior victims killed by their grown child were more likely than those killed by a spouse to be stabbed to death (38% versus 17%). In contrast, compared to victims killed by their grown children, a higher proportion of victims killed by a spouse died as a result of being strangled, suffocated or drowned (6% versus 17%) (Table 2.8).

Similar to family-related murder-suicides in general, those involving senior victims most often resulted from an argument, or frustration, anger or despair (Table 2.9). However, unlike other forms of family-related murder-suicides, those involving senior victims frequently had no apparent motive. While more than one-half (51%) of senior victims were killed as a result of an argument, more than one in five (22%) had no apparent motive. Mercy killings/assisted suicides also emerged as a motive among family-related murder-suicides of seniors, accounting for the motive in the killing of 16% of victims.

Declining health a common theme within narratives for murder-suicides of seniors

According to 38 homicide survey narratives between 2001 and 2011, the most common theme within the narratives pertaining to the murder-suicides of seniors[23] was the declining health of the victim, accused or both[24] (45%). This theme was even more prominent in elderly murder-suicides committed by a spouse (58%).

Summary

In general, murder-suicides are relatively infrequent in Canada, accounting for 6% of all homicide incidents between 2001 and 2011. When murder-suicides do occur however, most involve members of the same family.

Spousal murder-suicides were the most prevalent form of family-related murder-suicide in Canada between 2001 and 2011. However, rates of spousal murder-suicide have been declining over the past 40 years, particularly those involving female victims. Females and those aged 15 to 24 were the most at risk of spousal murder-suicides, while males accounted for the majority of accused.

Family-related murder-suicides of children and youth have also been declining, with rates beginning to fall in the mid-1990s. Most child victims of family related-murder suicides were killed by their parent or step-parent. In general, infants and toddlers were most at risk compared to other children (ages 3 to 11) and youth (ages 12 to 17).

The rate of family-related murder suicides of seniors have increased over the past 15 years. As with other forms of family-related murder-suicide, senior women were at higher risk compared to men. Senior victims were most often killed by spouses, but this varied based on sex of the victim, as males were more likely to be killed by their grown child.

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23. Senior murder-suicides refer to incidents in which the victim is age 65 or older.
24. Examples of declining health include cancer or Alzheimer's disease.

Detailed data tables

Table 2.1
Incidents of murder-suicide, by sex of accused and victim-accused relationship, Canada, 2001 to 2011

Victim(s) in the incident was/were the:	Male accused		Female accused		Total accused	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Family-related murder-suicides						
Spouse[1] of accused	159	46	3	0.9	162	47
Spouse[1] and child/children[2] of accused	22	6	2	0.6	24	7
Spouse[1] and other family member(s) of accused	5	1	0	0	5	1
Spouse[1] and other unrelated[3] victim of accused	4	1	0	0	4	1
Child/children[2] of accused	30	9	10	3	40	12
Parent(s) of accused	18	5	1	0.3	19	6
Other[4]	10	3	0	0	10	3
Total family related-murder suicides	**248**	**72**	**16**	**5**	**264**	**77**
Non family-related victims						
Dating/intimate partner of accused[5]	32	9	1	0.3	33	10
Acquaintance of accused[6]	40	12	0	0	40	12
Stranger to accused	6	2	0	0	6	2
Total non-family related	**78**	**23**	**1**	**0.3**	**79**	**23**
Unknown relationship	1	...	0	...	1	...
Total - all murder-suicides	**327**	**95**	**17**	**5**	**344**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes current and former legal, common-law and same sex spouses.
2. Includes biological, adoptive, and foster children. Also includes children 18 years of age and older.
3. Includes dating and intimate partners, acquaintance, and strangers.
4. Includes other extended family members, and other combinations of victims.
5. Includes current and former boyfriends/girlfriends, same sex relationships, extra-marital lovers and other intimate relationships.
6. Includes friends, neighbours, authority figures, business relationships, criminal relationship and casual acquaintances.
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.2
Persons accused of spousal murder-suicide, by history of family violence and accused-victim relationship, Canada 2001 to 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	History of family violence							
	Yes		No		Unknown		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Legally married spouse	22	26	62	74	11	...	95	100
Common-law spouse[1]	17	46	20	54	8	...	45	100
Separated spouse[2]	25	56	20	44	5	...	50	100
Divorced spouse	2	50	2	50	1	...	5	100
Total	**66**	**39**	**104**	**61**	**25**	**...**	**195**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes same-sex spouses who are either legally married or living common-law.
2. Includes those separated from a legal or common-law relationship.
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Percentages exclude incidents where history of family violence was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.3
Victims of spousal murder-suicide, by cause of death and victim-accused relationship, Canada, 2001 to 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Cause of death													
	Shooting		Stabbing		Strangulation, suffocation or drowning		Beating		Other[1]		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Legally married spouse	44	47	25	27	12	13	7	7	6	6	1	...	95	100
Common-law spouse[2]	25	57	9	20	6	14	3	7	1	2	1	...	45	100
Separated spouse[3]	30	61	7	14	8	16	4	8	0	0	1	...	50	100
Divorced spouse	2	40	2	40	0	0	0	0	1	20	0	...	5	100
Total	**101**	**53**	**43**	**22**	**26**	**14**	**14**	**7**	**8**	**4**	**3**	**...**	**195**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes poisoning or lethal injection, smoke inhalation/burns, and other causes.
2. Includes same-sex spouses who are either legally married or living common-law.
3. Includes those separated from a legal or common-law relationship.
Note: The cause of death represents the cause of death of the victim, not the accused. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Percentages exclude incidents where cause of death was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.4
Victims of spousal murder-suicide, by motive and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2001 to 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Argument or quarrel, frustration, anger or despair		Jealousy or revenge		Financial gain, protection of assets		Other[1]		No apparent motive		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Legally married spouse	59	68	11	13	2	2	7	8	8	9	8	...	95	100
Common-law spouse[2]	24	57	14	33	1	2	0	0	3	7	3	...	45	100
Separated spouse[3]	25	52	23	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	...	50	100
Divorced spouse	3	60	2	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	5	100
Total	**111**	**61**	**50**	**27**	**3**	**2**	**7**	**4**	**11**	**6**	**13**	**...**	**195**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes mercy killing/assisted suicide and other motives.
2. Includes same-sex spouses who are either legally married or living common-law.
3. Includes those separated from a legal or common-law relationship.
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Percentages exclude incidents where the motive was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.5
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related murder-suicide, by accused-victim relationship and age of victim, Canada, 2001 to 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Age of victim							
	Less than 3 years old		3 to 11 years		12 to 17		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Father/step-father[1]	11	85	27	73	13	81	51	77
Mother/step-mother[1]	2	15	8	22	2	13	12	18
Other family[2]	0	0	2	5	1	6	3	5
Total	**13**	**100**	**37**	**100**	**16**	**100**	**66**	**100**

1. Includes biological, adoptive, and foster parents.
2. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.6
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related murder-suicide, by cause of death and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2001 to 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Cause of death													
	Shooting		Strangulation, suffocation or drowning		Stabbing		Poisoning		Beating		Other[1]		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Father/step-father[2]	18	35	12	24	7	14	4	8	3	6	7	14	51	100
Mother/step-mother[2]	0	0	3	25	2	17	5	42	1	8	1	8	12	100
Other family[3]	1	33	0	0	2	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	100
Total	**19**	**29**	**15**	**23**	**11**	**17**	**9**	**14**	**4**	**6**	**8**	**12**	**66**	**100**

1. Includes poisoning or lethal injection, smoke inhalation/burns, and other causes.
2. Includes biological, adoptive, and foster parents.
3. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Proportion include all victims aged 17 and younger.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.7
Child and youth victims (0 to 17) of family-related murder-suicide, by motive and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2001 to 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Motive for murder-suicide									
	Argument or quarrel, frustration, anger or despair		Jealousy or revenge		No apparent motive		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Father/step-father[1]	31	66	13	28	3	6	4	...	51	100
Mother/step-mother[1]	9	82	1	9	1	9	1	...	12	100
Other family[2]	1	100	0	0	0	0	2	...	3	100
Total	**41**	**69**	**14**	**24**	**4**	**7**	**7**	**...**	**66**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes biological, adoptive, and foster parents.
2. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents.
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Percentages exclude incidents where the motive was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.8
Senior victims of family-related murder-suicide, by cause of death and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2001 to 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Cause of death											
	Shooting		Stabbing		Beating		Strangulation, suffocation or drowning		Other[1]		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Spouse[2]	12	50	4	17	3	13	4	17	1	4	24	100
Grown child[3]	7	44	6	38	2	13	1	6	0	0	16	100
Other family[4]	4	40	2	20	2	20	2	20	0	0	10	100
Total	**23**	**46**	**12**	**24**	**7**	**14**	**7**	**14**	**1**	**2**	**50**	**100**

1. Includes poisoning and lethal injection.
2. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses and same-sex spouses.
3. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.
4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, siblings, cousins and in-laws.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2.9
Senior victims of family-related murder-suicide, by motive and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2001 to 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Motive for murder-suicide											
	Argument or quarrel, frustration, anger or despair		Mercy killing / assisted suicides		Other[1]		No apparent motive		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Spouse[2]	14	64	4	18	2	9	2	9	2	...	24	100
Grown child[3]	5	31	3	19	0	0	8	50	0	...	16	100
Other family[4]	4	57	0	0	3	43	0	0	3	...	10	100
Total	**23**	**51**	**7**	**16**	**5**	**11**	**10**	**22**	**5**	**...**	**50**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes revenge, jealousy, fear of apprehension and other motives.
2. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses and same-sex spouses.
3. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children.
4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.

Note: Exclude incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Percentages exclude incidents where the motive was unknown. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Section 3: Intimate partner violence

By Maire Sinha

Intimate partner violence ranges from emotional abuse, such as name calling, to repeated physical or sexual assaults and homicide (Heise and Garcia-Moreno 2002). Recognized as a public health issue, intimate partner violence can have far-reaching consequences on not only the direct victim, but also on families, communities and society at large. A recent Justice Canada study estimated the cost of one type of intimate partner violence, spousal violence, on Canadian society at $7.4 billion in 2009 (Zhang et al. 2013). Most of these costs were related to victim costs, such as pain and suffering, counselling expenses and legal fees for divorce, while the next highest costs were borne by third parties (e.g., families, employers and social services) and the criminal and civil justice systems (e.g., police, courts, corrections).

For the purposes of this section, police-reported data are used to examine the prevalence and nature of intimate partner violence coming to the attention of police in Canada. Intimate partner violence is defined as violence perpetrated against spouses and dating partners, either in current or former relationships. Whenever possible, the analysis of police-reported data delineates any differences between spousal and dating violence, while recognizing that these forms of violence often share a number of similarities, such as the victim's potential emotional attachment to the abuser and the possible recurring nature of the violence.

All *Criminal Code* violent violations reported to and substantiated by police are included in this analysis. Not included are those violent incidents that do not reach the attention of police, which according to the General Social Survey on victimization, represented about three-quarters of all self-reported spousal victims in 2009 (Brennan 2011).[1] Overall, unreported incidents were generally less severe and less likely to involve physical injury, compared to those incidents of spousal violence that came to the attention of police (Sinha 2013). Acts of financial and emotional abuse that do not reach the criminal threshold[2] are also outside the scope of the current analysis.

Intimate partner violence accounts for one-quarter of all police-reported violent crimes

Intimate partner violence, including both spousal and dating violence, accounts for one in every four violent crimes reported to police. In 2011, there were approximately 97,500 victims of intimate partner violence, representing a rate of 341 victims per 100,000 population (Table 3.1). The vast majority of these victims (80%) were women, a finding consistent over time.[3]

Overall, violence against dating partners was more prevalent than spousal violence, with a rate that was at least 1.6 times greater than the rate for spouses[4] (408 per 100,000 population versus 250 per 100,000).[5]

Violence by a dating partner was more prevalent than violence committed by any other type of perpetrator, including one of the most common – friends or acquaintances. In particular, the rate of violence by a dating partner was 10% higher than the rate of violence committed by friends or acquaintances, 42% higher than stranger violence and nearly three times higher than non-spousal family violence.

These findings held true for females but were not consistently the case for males. That is, while males were also more likely to be a victim of police-reported dating violence than of spousal violence, males were much more likely to be the victim of violence perpetrated by friends, acquaintances or strangers.

1. This information comes from the 2009 General Social Survey on victimization, which asked Canadians about their experiences of victimization and use of services, such as police and victim services.
2. For information on emotional and financial abuse against spouses, see Sinha 2013 and Brennan 2011.
3. Based on previous research on intimate partner violence (Sinha 2013, Sinha 2012).
4. The higher risk of dating violence exists despite the fact that the rate of dating violence is underestimated. Underestimation is a result of the inflated size of population used in the calculation of dating violence rates. That is, the calculation of a dating violence rate uses the entire population of unmarried persons, regardless of their dating relationship status. For more information, see Text box 3.1
5. According to police-reported data, 28% of victims of dating partners were living together at the time of the incident. This can include those with short-term or temporary living arrangements. The proportion of dating violence victims living together ranges from a low of 8% in Quebec to a high of 45% in Nunavut.

Text box 3.1
How intimate partner violence is measured

One challenge in measuring the relative prevalence of spousal and dating partner violence is the calculation of rates. In general, rates are calculated by dividing the number of occurrences of a particular type of incident by the population at risk of that type of incident. To accurately calculate rates, it is necessary to first determine the population that best reflects the population at risk.

For spousal violence, data on the at-risk population are available and include those legally married, separated, divorced and in a common-law relationship. One limitation, however, is the absence of population data for those individuals who were in a previous common-law relationship, as this information is not captured within the Census.

For dating violence, the at-risk population are those currently dating or had been in a dating relationship. No estimate of this population exists (i.e., number of current and former dating partners). As a result, the best approximate at-risk population would be those persons who are currently unmarried, including single, separated, divorced and widowed persons.

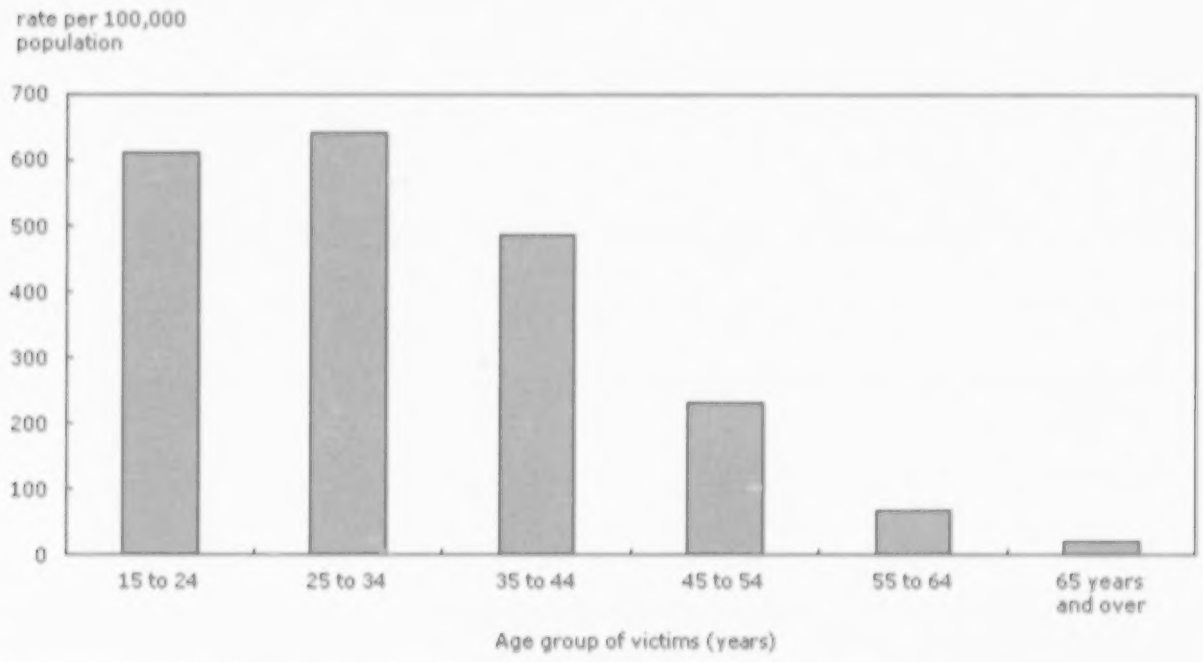
Calculating a dating violence rate using the total unmarried population underestimates the actual prevalence of dating violence, since the number of incidents of dating violence is being divided by a population that is larger than the true dating population. In other words, the rate of dating violence would be higher if it was calculated based on the actual population of dating partners. For this reason, any comparison of rates of spousal violence and dating partner violence should be made with caution.

Calculating rates among particular types of intimate partner unions, such as common-law and legally married unions, as well as specific relationship statuses, namely current versus previous partnership, is limited to the Homicide Survey. This is because the accused-victim relationship categories within the Incident-based UCR Survey do not match population data. For homicides, it is possible to calculate rates using the at-risk population for legally married spouses, divorced spouses, and current common-law spouses. Disaggregated population data do not exist for previous common-law partners, current dating partners, previous dating partners, current same-sex spouses, and previous same-sex spouses.

Rates of intimate partner violence highest among young Canadians

As with violent crime overall, young Canadians were most often the victim of intimate partner violence. Women and men in their late 20s and early 30s had the highest rates of intimate partner violent victimization per 100,000 population, followed closely by those aged 15 to 24 years (Chart 3.1). Rates generally declined with increasing age and were higher for women in every age group.

Chart 3.1
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by age group of victim, Canada, 2011



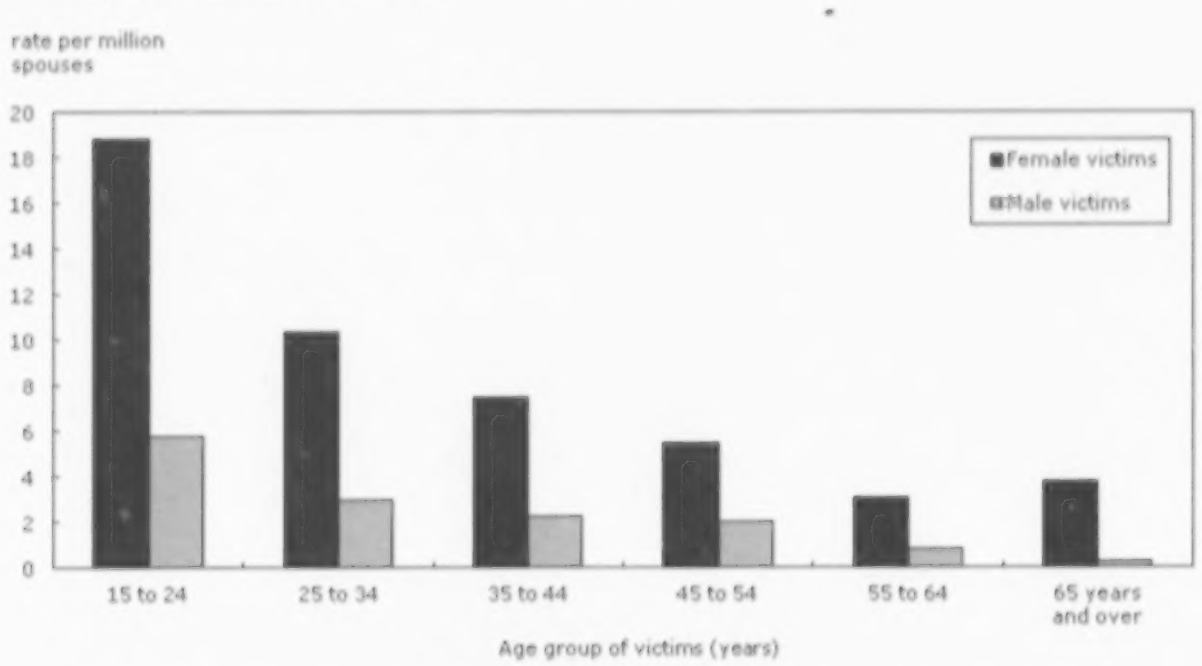
Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based upon victims aged 15 to 89. For intimate partner violence, rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Somewhat different findings emerged when intimate partner violence escalated to homicide and this was the case for both women and men. Those aged 25 to 34 years remained at highest risk. However the second highest risk of being killed by their intimate partner was for those in their late thirties to early forties. This was followed by those aged 45 to 54. The youngest age-cohort, those aged 15 to 24, experienced a rate of intimate partner homicide that was similar to older Canadians.

Victims of spousal violence younger than dating violence victims

According to police-reported data, there were clear variations between spousal and dating violence, with victims of spousal violence being younger than dating violence victims. In particular, rates of spousal violence, including spousal homicide, were highest among women and men aged 15 to 24, with rates falling with each increasing age cohort (Table 3.2; Chart 3.2).

Chart 3.2
Victims of spousal homicide, by age group and sex of the victim, Canada, 2001 to 2011

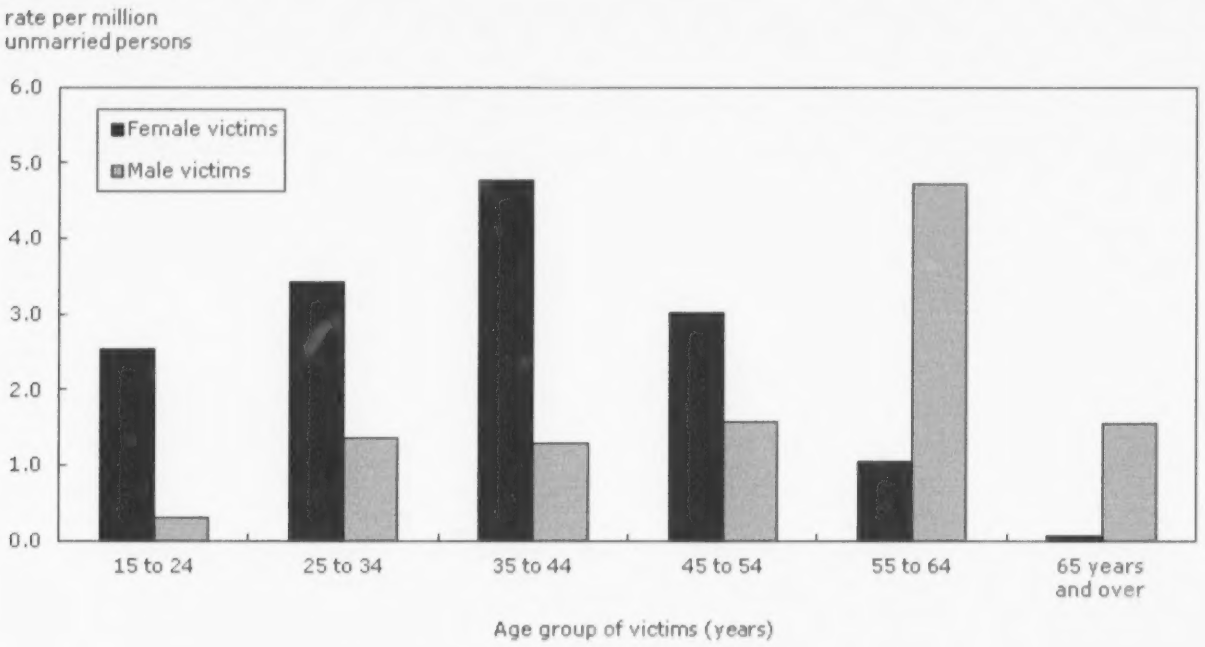


Note: Spousal homicide refers to homicide committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

By contrast, Canadians aged 25 to 34, along with those aged 35 to 44, experienced the highest overall rates of dating violence per 100,000 unmarried persons (Table 3.3). In fact, when dating violence culminated in homicides, victims were even older, with the risk being highest among Canadians aged 35 to 44. (Chart 3.3).[6]

6. Rates of dating homicides, while higher for women in most age groups, were greater for men than women starting at age 55. This may be explained by the much lower population of widowed men aged 55 years and older compared to widowed women (1.6 million versus 6.3 million). That is, the smaller population of widowed men (smaller population at risk) results in older men's higher prevalence rate per 100,000 unmarried persons.

Chart 3.3
Victims of dating partner homicide, by age group and sex of the victim, Canada, 2001 to 2011



Note: Dating partner homicide refers to homicide committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current or previous) and other intimate partners. The rate of dating homicide is an underestimation given that the population of unmarried persons (single, divorced and widowed) includes both persons who have engaged in a dating relationship and those who have not recently engaged in a dating relationship (see Text box 3.1). For this chart, the separated population has been excluded from the unmarried population. This is because prior to 2007, the separated population was combined with the legally married population. As a result, the population used for the calculation of dating homicide rates differs from the population used to calculate 2010 rates of dating violence. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

It is important to note that not all types of dating violence were more prevalent among older aged victims. In particular, the risk of sexually-based crimes was highest for those aged 15 to 24 and dropped with increasing age. Also, although overall rates of dating violence based on the unmarried population were more elevated among older age cohorts, the number of dating violence victims based on the total population was highest among the youngest age group - those aged 15 to 24 (40%). This reflects the fact that dating relationships are highest among young people, and decline with age, as more individuals marry or move into common-law relationships. In other words, as individuals age, there are fewer persons identified as unmarried and therefore, the at-risk population of unmarried persons diminishes with age.

Two-thirds of intimate partner violence victims were victimized by a current partner

Previous research suggests that intimate partner violence often continues, escalates or even begins after the dissolution of a relationship (Johnson 2006; Johnson and Hotton 2003; Hotton 2001). Police-reported data indicate that about 26,600 women and 6,600 men experienced post-separation violence in 2011. This type of violence was proportionally less common than violence against current partners. In 2011, 34% of all police-reported intimate partner victims were violently victimized by their previous partner, compared to 65% by a current partner.[7] This pattern held true for both female and male victims.

7. Percentages do not total 100%, as 'other intimate partner' relationships account for 1% of all intimate partner victims. It is unknown whether these other relationships were intact or had terminated.

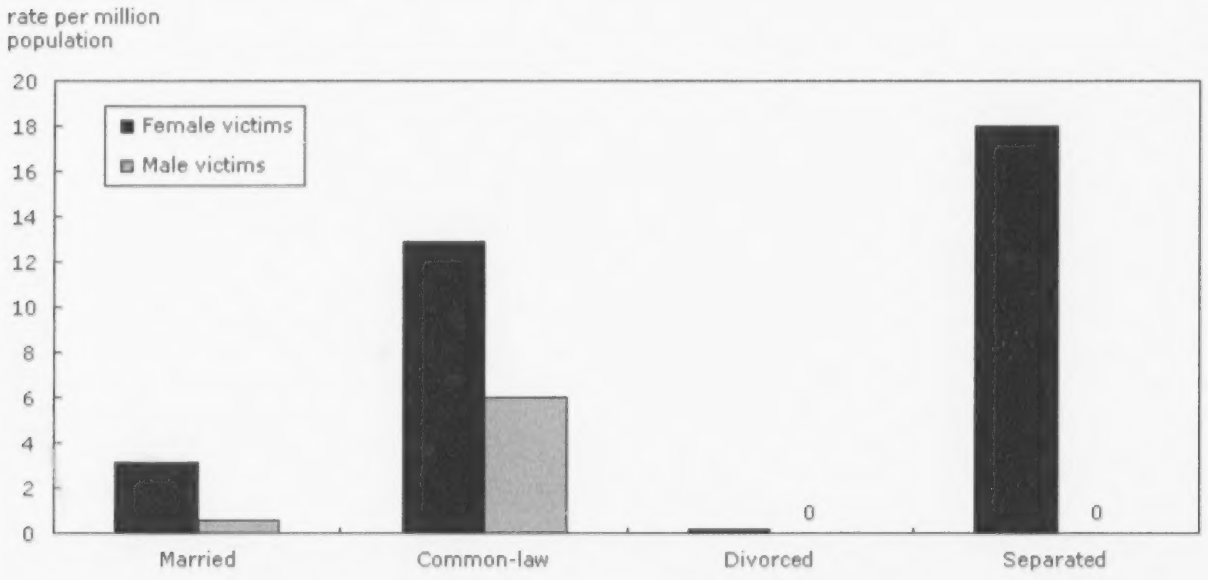
The lower representation of previous partners as intimate partner victims was seen for both spousal and dating violence. That said, dating violence victims were slightly more likely than spousal victims to be estranged from their partner at the time of the violent incident (38% versus 30%).

Women at heightened risk of spousal homicide after marital separation

Although violent incidents against current intimate partners outnumber those against previous partners, these figures do not control for differences in the size of the current and previously partnered population. While it is not possible to calculate rates for current or previous partners based on the Incident-based UCR Survey,[8] the Homicide Survey can be used to calculate rates based on the at-risk populations.[9]

As with spousal violence overall, the actual number of individuals killed by a current spouse was higher than those killed by a legally separated spouse. However, when expressed as a rate, the prevalence of spousal homicide was highest after marital separation, though only for women. In particular, over the past five years from 2007 to 2011, a woman's risk of being killed by a legally separated spouse was nearly six times higher than their risk from a legally married spouse (Chart 3.4).[10] Jealousy of the female victim was more often a factor in homicides of legally separated spouses (25%) over this period, compared to homicides involving women married at the time of the incident (12%). That said, frustration was the leading motive behind both (47% and 41%).

Chart 3.4
Spousal homicide rates, by sex of the victim and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2007 to 2011



Note: Includes the population aged 15 years and over. Population estimates based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Also excluded are homicides committed by same-sex spouses, ex-same-sex spouses or separated common-law spouses since there is no population data specifically for these groups. Population data includes individuals in same-sex spousal relationships (both legally married and in common-law relationships).
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

8. Controlling for differences in the size of the marital population using the Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey is not possible, due to differences between relationship categories in this survey and population data.
9. See Text box 3.1 for more information on calculating rates of intimate partner violence.
10. Excludes common-law spouses, since population data do not exist for previous common-law partners. Also excludes homicides committed by same-sex spouses and ex-same-sex spouses, as there are no population data specifically for these groups.

Over the same five-year period (2007 to 2011), no men were killed by their separated or divorced spouse and one male victim per million married men was killed by their current spouse. For women, rates of spousal homicide were lowest among the divorced population.

Unlike spousal homicide, rates of dating homicide cannot account for differences in the population of individuals currently dating versus those previously dating. However, similar to spousal homicides of women, jealousy was more often a motive in homicides against previous dating partners over the past five years, compared to homicides against current dating partners (29% versus 16%).

Rates of spousal homicides higher in common-law unions than legal marriages

In recent years, common-law couples have become increasingly more prevalent, while married couples are declining as a proportion of all families in Canada (Statistics Canada 2012). Previous research has suggested that individuals in common-law unions are at higher risk of spousal violence, because of factors related to young age and lower socio-economic status (Johnson 2006).

Findings from the Homicide Survey confirm that the risk of spousal homicide was elevated among women and men currently living in a common-law union.[11] Between 2007 and 2011, women were four times more likely to be killed by their common-law partner than by their legally married spouse (13 victims per million population versus 3 victims per million) (Chart 3.4). Similarly, men in common-law unions were ten times more likely than their married counterparts to be killed by their partners (6 victims per million versus 1 victim per million).

Overall, individuals in common-law unions were more often than their legally married counterparts to be killed because of an escalation of an argument (60% versus 27%) or as a result of the partner's jealousy (17% and 11%). Frustration was a less common motivating factor in homicides of common-law partners than those involving legally married spouses (14% and 37%).

Common assault accounts for highest share of intimate partner violence

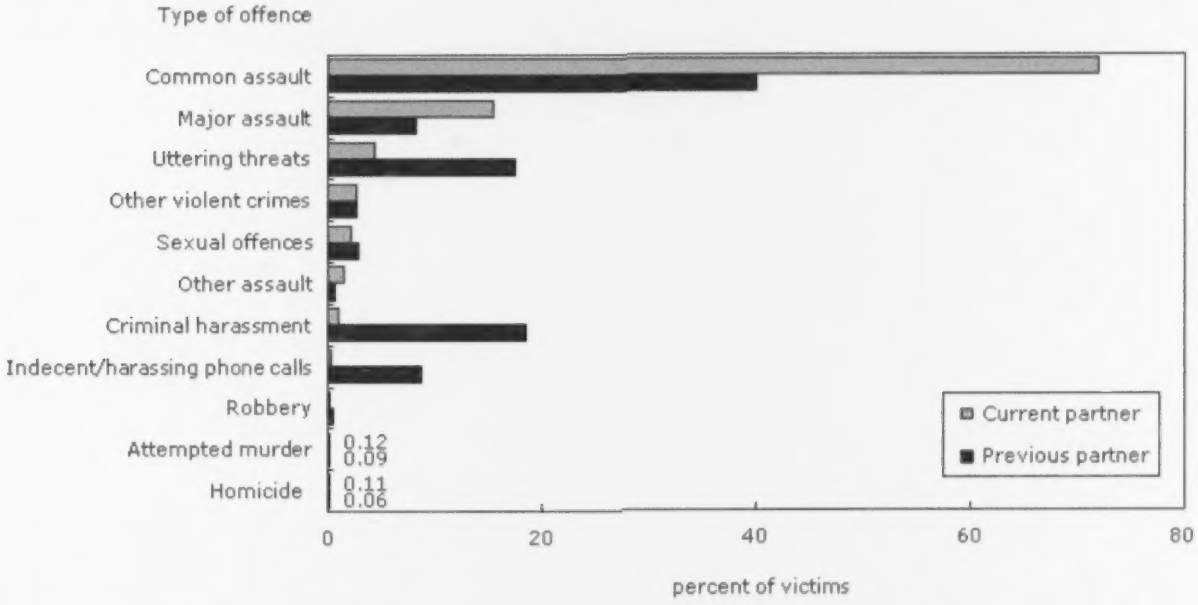
In keeping with previous findings, the majority of victims of intimate partner violence were physically assaulted in some way. More specifically, three in four victims of intimate partner violence were victims of physical assaults, most of which (81%) were common assaults, an offence with little to no injury to the victim (Table 3.4). After physical assaults, the next most common offences against intimate partners were uttering threats at 9% and criminal harassment at 7%.

While the type of offences committed against women and men were generally similar, there were a few exceptions. For instance, major assault was more prevalent among male victims of intimate partner violence than female victims (20% versus 11%), perhaps reflecting the greater tendency of intimate partner violence against men to involve weapons (22% versus 11% of incidents against women). On the other hand, sexual offences and criminal harassment occurred more frequently against female victims than male victims of intimate partner violence.

For both sexes, there was some variation in the types of offences perpetrated against spousal and dating violence victims. Most notably, a slightly higher proportion of spousal victims were physically assaulted compared to dating violence victims (76% versus 72%). Even greater differences in the types of offences were evident between individuals in a current relationship and those whose relationship had ended. In particular, almost nine in ten victims of violence by a current spouse or dating partner were physically assaulted, while the same was true for 48% of victims by a previous partner (Chart 3.5).

11. Since the Incident-based UCR Survey captures common-law and legally married victims in the category of 'spouse', it is not possible to distinguish between common-law and married victims for violent crime overall.

Chart 3.5
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by current or previous intimate partner relationship and type of offence, Canada, 2011



Note: Excludes 'other intimate' partners, since it is unknown whether the relationship was a current or previous partnership. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Also, compared to violence by a current partner, violence by a past partner was nearly eight times more likely to involve intimidation offences, namely criminal harassment, indecent phone calls and uttering threats (45% versus 6%). This finding may not be unexpected given that the nature of intimidation offences is more indicative of actions of accused who are estranged and not living with their partner, rather than those who have close physical contact with the victim.

Most accused used their own physical force rather than weapons

Patterns in weapon use and injury largely reflect the fact that common assault was the predominant offence against intimate partners. In the majority of incidents (70%), the perpetrator used their own physical force, rather than a weapon, to either threaten or cause injury to the victim (Table 3.5). Another 13% of incidents involved the use of a weapon, while in 17% of incidents, no weapon was used.

As previously noted, a larger share of incidents against male intimate partners involved a weapon compared to those against a female intimate partner (22% versus 11%). It has been suggested that female aggressors are more likely to wield a weapon because of gender differences in physical strength (Busch and Rosenberg 2004).

Given the greater use of weapons against men and the higher tendency for injury among incidents involving weapons,[12] male victims were slightly more likely than female victims to suffer physical injury (55% versus 52%).

12. Overall, incidents involving weapons were more likely than those involving physical force to result in physical injury (67% versus 64%). In addition, male victims were more likely than female victims to sustain injury when a weapon was used (74% versus 64%), though female victims were more often injured when the incident involved the use of physical force (64% versus 61% of male victims).

Minor injuries accounted for this gender difference, with 53% of male victims sustaining minor physical injuries and 50% of female victims. There was no gender difference in major injury or death, as male and female victims of intimate partner violence were equally as likely to either die or experience a physical injury requiring professional medical attention (2% each).

Dating violence victims were slightly more likely than spousal violence victims to suffer from injuries (54% versus 50%). This is despite the finding that there was little difference in weapon use or type of offence between dating and spousal violence incidents.

Formal charges pursued in most incidents of intimate partner violence

Pro-charging policies were introduced in the 1980s to help prevent and respond to spousal violence (Garner and Maxwell 2009). Every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies, which require that charges be laid in cases of intimate partner violence, where there are reasonable grounds to believe an offence has been committed.[13] This is, in fact, the applicable standard for all criminal conduct.

In 2011, 71% of intimate partner violence incidents reported to police resulted in a criminal charge being laid or recommended against the accused (Table 3.6). This was almost double the proportion recorded for non-intimate partner violence (39%), which includes violence perpetrated by accused known to the victim (e.g., casual acquaintances), as well as strangers. Among intimate partner violence incidents, 16% were cleared by means other than a charge.[14] .The most common reason for clearing the incident through other means included a request by the complainant not to lay charges, reasons beyond the control of the department, and departmental discretion.

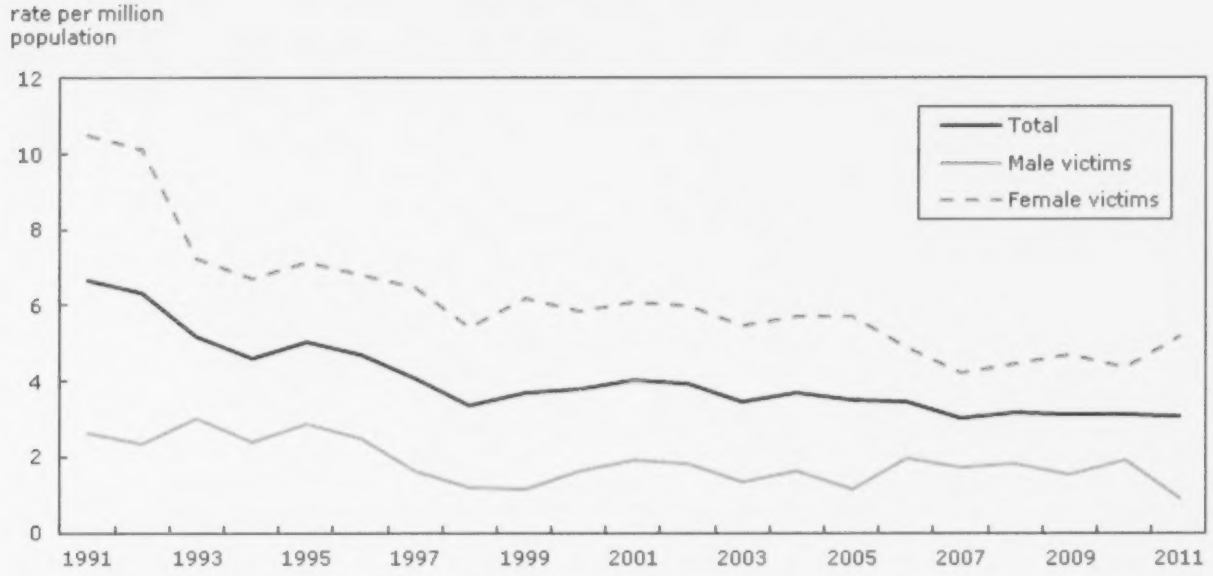
Overall, female victims of intimate partner violence were more likely than male victims to see charges laid or recommended (74% versus 61%). There was virtually no difference in the proportion of spousal and dating violence incidents ending in charges against the accused (72% and 71%).

Intimate partner homicides stable in recent years

Trends in police-reported intimate partner violence can be assessed using data from both the Homicide Survey and the Incident-based UCR Survey. Generally considered a country's barometer of violent crime,[15] homicides, which are less prone to issues of under-reporting to police, can signal shifts in the prevalence of intimate partner violence over time. In the 1990s, homicides involving intimate partners dropped by more than half, from a rate of 6.7 victims per million in 1991 to a rate of 3.7 per million in 1999 (Chart 3.6).[16] Since then, the decreases have been less dramatic, but the rate in 2011 remained lower (-24%) than a decade earlier. For the third year in a row, the overall rate of intimate partner homicide held steady at 3.1 victims per million.

13. Some jurisdictions also require consideration of whether it is in the public interest to lay charges.
14. For incidents of intimate partner violence, police services in Ontario do not have the ability to clear an incident otherwise. These police services must either charge or not clear the incident.
15. See Marshall and Block 2004.
16. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 in an effort to respond to changing information needs.

Chart 3.6
Victims of intimate partner homicide, by sex of victim, Canada, 1991 to 2011



Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population. Population based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Intimate partners include legally married, separated, divorced, common-law, and dating partners (current and previous). A small number of homicides of dating partners under 15 years of age were excluded in rate calculations. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 in an effort to respond to changing information needs. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

The most recent stability in rates of intimate partner homicides over the last three years was not evident for both sexes, and in fact, resulted from an increase in rates of intimate partner homicides against women and a concurrent decrease in rates against men. In 2011, the rate of intimate partner homicides against women grew by 19% from a rate of 4.4 victims per million women in 2010 to 5.2 victims per million women in 2011. Increases were seen in both spousal homicides (+21%) and dating homicides (+12%) (Table 3.7, Table 3.8). In contrast, the male rate of intimate partner homicides fell in 2011 to the lowest rate recorded in the previous twenty-year period. Both homicides against male spouses and dating partners decreased.

Decrease in common assault against intimate partners

According to police-reported data, the most frequently occurring type of offence against intimate partners – common assault - has decreased in recent years. Between 2009 and 2011, the rate of common assault fell by 4%, which was entirely driven by a drop in assaults against female intimate partners, the majority of victims of intimate partner violence[17] (Table 3.9). Rates of common assault against male intimate partners remained stable throughout this period. It is unclear whether the decrease in common assaults against women reflect actual changes in the incidence of this type of intimate partner violence or changes in the willingness of victims to report these crimes to police.[18]

For both men and women, rates of serious assaults against intimate partners, including aggravated assault and aggravated assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, held steady between 2009 and 2011.

17. Analysis of the three-year trend database is limited to only those offences that have complete victim records and where UCR offence classification has remained constant over the three-year period.
18. According to the General Social Survey on Victimization, reporting rates to police for incidents of spousal violence against women fell from 36% in 2004 to 30% in 2009, the last time the survey was conducted.

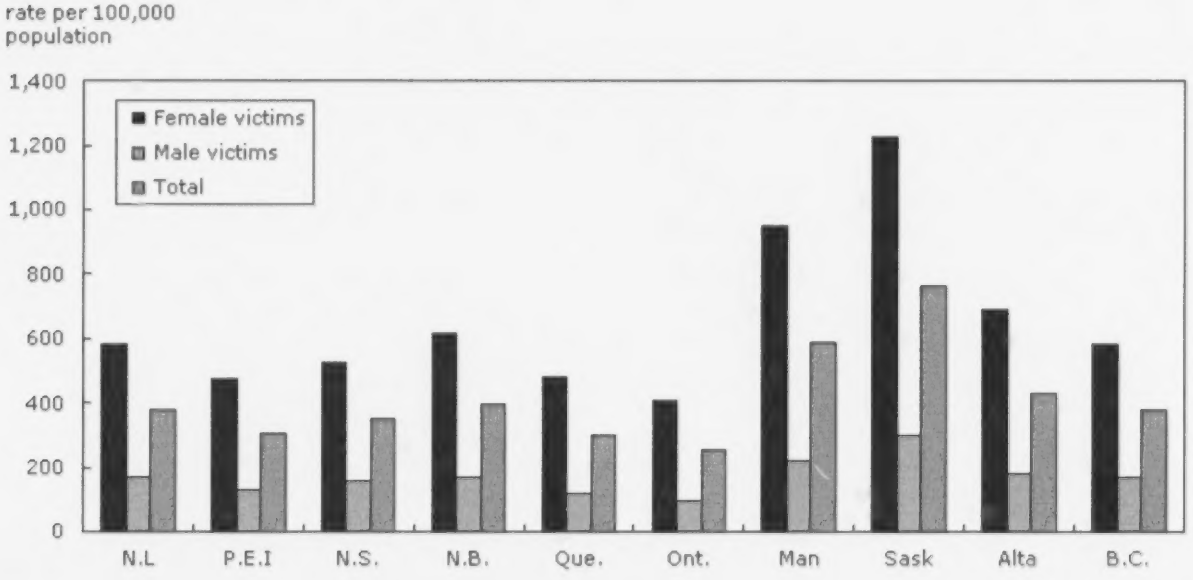
Characterized by little to no physical injury, rates of level 1 sexual assaults involving intimate partners increased 5% for men and 13% for women between 2009 and 2011. More serious sexual assaults, however, were relatively stable against male intimate partners and decreased 7% for female intimate partners.

Overall, attempted murders of intimate partners dropped 12% between 2009 and 2011. As with common assaults, this decrease was primarily fueled by fewer attempted murders of female intimate partners per 100,000 population, as rates of attempted murder against male intimate partners decreased slightly (-2%).

Saskatchewan and Manitoba record highest rates of intimate partner violence

Regional variations in intimate partner violence generally mirror those of violent crime overall. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan had the highest rate of intimate partner violence, with a rate that was 30% higher than the next highest rate recorded by Manitoba (Chart 3.7, Table 3.10). The lowest rates were in Ontario and Quebec, with the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in these provinces reporting some of the lowest rates among all CMAs (Table 3.11).

Chart 3.7
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and province, 2011



Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, opposite and same sex common-law, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. Intimate partner category includes victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Police-reported rates of intimate partner violence tended to be higher in the territories than in the provinces. The rates in Nunavut and Northwest Territories were more than three times higher than those in any of the provinces, with rates of 4,807 victims per 100,000 population and 2,559 victims per 100,000 population, respectively. Yukon had the lowest territorial rate of 1,260 per 100,000 population, which was still 65% higher than Saskatchewan, the province with the highest rate. Regional variations in intimate partner violence against both men and women were similar.

Summary

Rates of intimate partner violence are highest among women, young people, and those in dating relationships. This is consistent with previous findings. Individuals in certain forms of intimate partner relationships were at increased risk of being killed. For instance, individuals in common-law unions were more likely to be killed than their legally married counterparts. For women, those legally separated from their spouse were more likely to be killed than those in intact marriages.

Recent rates of intimate partner homicides have been relatively stable, despite an increase in intimate partner homicides against women between 2010 and 2011. Meanwhile, the most common type of offence against intimate partners – common assault - has been declining in the last few years. This decrease was driven by a drop in assaults against women, as rates against men held steady over the same period.

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Detailed data tables

Table 3.1
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by relationship of accused to victim and sex of victim, Canada, 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims	
	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
Intimate partner	77,943	539	19,508	138	97,451	341
Spouse[2]	37,297	395	9,120	100	46,417	250
Dating partner[3]	40,646	631	10,388	172	51,034	408
Non-spousal family member[4]	28,290	164	20,132	118	48,422	141
Friend/acquaintance	54,271	315	73,111	429	127,382	372
Casual acquaintance	37,872	220	50,544	297	88,416	258
Business relationship	6,216	36	9,869	58	16,085	47
Close friend	7,474	43	7,881	46	15,355	45
Criminal relationship	437	3	1,816	11	2,253	7
Authority figure	2,272	13	3,001	18	5,273	15
Stranger	30,730	179	67,512	396	98,242	287
Total	**191,234**	**1,111**	**180,263**	**1,058**	**371,497**	**1,085**

1. For intimate partner violence, rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population aged 15 to 89 years. For non-intimate partner violence, rates are calculated on the basis of population aged 0 to 89 years. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
2. Spousal violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners (current and previous). The spousal category is based upon victims aged 15 to 89.
3. Dating partner violence refers to violence committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The dating partner category is based upon victims aged 15 to 89.
4. Other family member includes parents, children, siblings, and extended family.

Note: Caution should be used when comparing rates of spousal and dating partner violence as the rate of dating violence is underestimated. As described in Text box 3.1, the calculation of dating partner rates is based on the population of unmarried persons (single, separated, divorced and widowed), including both persons who have engaged in a dating relationship and those who have never engaged in a dating relationship. This leads to an underestimation of the true extent of dating violence. In contrast, the spousal violence rate is calculated using the true population at-risk of spousal violence, namely the spousal population. Therefore, the rate of spousal violence is a more accurate reflection of the prevalence of spousal violence. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.2
Victims of police-reported spousal violence, by age group and sex of victim, Canada, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total spousal victims	
Age groups	**number**	**rate**	**number**	**rate**	**number**	**rate**
15 to 24 years	6,711	2,156	950	584	7,661	1,616
25 to 34 years	12,215	811	2,507	210	14,722	545
35 to 44 years	10,698	552	2,834	159	13,532	364
45 to 54 years	5,689	243	2,021	88	7,710	166
55 to 64 years	1,436	76	580	30	2,016	53
65 years and over	548	38	228	13	776	24
Total	**37,297**	**395**	**9,120**	**100**	**46,417**	**250**

Note: Spousal violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, opposite and same sex common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes incidents where the sex and age of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 spousal population (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law).
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.3
Victims of police-reported dating violence by age group and sex of victim, Canada, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total dating violence victims	
Age groups	**number**	**rate**	**number**	**rate**	**number**	**rate**
15 to 24 years	17,436	898	2,858	130	20,294	490
25 to 34 years	12,200	1,248	3,432	267	15,632	691
35 to 44 years	6,874	1,050	2,250	292	9,124	641
45 to 54 years	3,424	443	1,376	185	4,800	316
55 to 64 years	590	84	352	72	942	79
65 years and over	122	9	120	21	242	12
Total	**40,646**	**631**	**10,388**	**172**	**51,034**	**408**

Note: Dating violence refers to violence committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current and previous) and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Excludes incidents where the sex and age of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 unmarried population (single, separated, divorced, widowed).
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.4
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by intimate partners, type of offence and sex of victim, Canada, 2011

	Victims of intimate partner violence[1]					
	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Type of offence	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Homicides	75	0.1	13	0.1	88	0.1
Attempted murders	76	0.1	30	0.2	106	0.1
Sexual offences[2]	2,367	3	64	0	2,431	2
Physical assault	56,828	73	16,255	83	73,083	75
Major assault (levels 2 and 3)[3]	8,751	11	3,913	20	12,664	13
Common assault (level 1)[4]	47,142	60	12,102	62	59,244	61
Other assaults[5]	935	1	240	1	1,175	1
Criminal harassment	6,056	8	859	4	6,915	7
Indecent/harassing phone calls	2,399	3	756	4	3,155	3
Uttering threats	7,358	9	1,365	7	8,723	9
Robbery	248	0.3	53	0.3	301	0.3
Other violent offences[6]	2,536	3	113	1	2,649	3
Total offences	**77,943**	**100**	**19,508**	**100**	**97,451**	**100**

1. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based on victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
2. Includes sexual assault, classified as one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incidents. Level 1 sexual assault is the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2 includes sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3 includes aggravated sexual assault which wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of the victim. Also includes other sexual crimes such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, corrupting children, luring a child via a computer, and voyeurism.
3. Level 2 assault is defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm and level 3 assault is defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.
4. Level 1 assault is the least serious form of assault and includes pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats.
5. Other assaults include unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge firearm with intent, assault against peace-public officer, and other assaults.
6. Includes abduction, kidnapping, hostage-taking, arson and other violent violations.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.5
Victims of police-reported violent crime by type of intimate partner and most serious weapon present, Canada, 2011

	Victims of spousal violence		Victims of dating violence		Total victims of intimate partner violence[1]	
Type of weapon	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
No weapon[2]	6,817	16	9,085	18	15,902	17
Physical force	30,614	70	34,095	69	64,709	70
Weapons	6,181	14	6,242	13	12,423	13
Firearm	301	1	275	1	576	1
Knife[3]	1,863	4	1,891	4	3,754	4
Club/blunt instrument	1,079	2	724	1	1,803	2
Other weapon[4]	2,938	7	3,352	7	6,290	7
Unknown	2,805	...	1,612	...	4,417	...
Total	**46,417**	**100**	**51,034**	**100**	**97,451**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. The intimate partner category is based on victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
2. Includes threats that are construed to imply that death or injury is possible.
3. Knife includes other piecing/cutting instrument, such as a hatchet, razor blade or arrow.
4. Includes other types of weapons such as explosives, fire, motor vehicles, or poison.
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Unknown weapons are excluded in the calculation of percentages. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.6
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by clearance status and type of intimate partner relationship, Canada, 2011

Type of incident clearance status	Victims of spousal violence[1]		Victims of dating violence[2]		Total victims of intimate partner violence	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Not cleared[3]	4,905	11	7,275	14	12,180	12
Cleared by charge	33,283	72	36,021	71	69,304	71
Cleared otherwise	8,229	18	7,738	15	15,967	16
Complainant requests charges not be laid	3,527	8	4,037	8	7,564	8
Reasons beyond the control of department	2,947	6	726	1	3,673	4
Departmental discretion	1,486	3	2,659	5	4,145	4
Other[4]	269	1	316	1	585	1
Total	**46,417**	**100**	**51,034**	**100**	**97,451**	**100**

1. Spousal violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
2. Dating partner violence refers to violence committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current and previous), and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
3. 'Not cleared' refers to incidents where an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident.
4. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, and diversionary programs.
Note: In cases of domestic violence, every Canadian jurisdiction has implemented some form of pro-charging policies. The particular parameters of these pro-charging policies can vary regionally. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.7
Victims of spousal homicides, by sex, Canada, 1991 to 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total victims of spousal homicide	
Year	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
1991	87	11.6	25	3.4	112	7.5
1992	88	11.6	18	2.4	106	7.1
1993	64	8.3	24	3.2	88	5.8
1994	66	8.5	20	2.6	86	5.6
1995	71	9.0	22	2.9	93	6.0
1996	63	7.9	19	2.5	82	5.2
1997	63	7.8	15	1.9	78	4.9
1998	57	7.0	13	1.6	70	4.4
1999	60	7.3	11	1.4	71	4.4
2000	53	6.4	17	2.1	70	4.3
2001	71	8.5	18	2.2	89	5.4
2002	68	8.0	16	1.9	84	5.0
2003	64	7.5	14	1.7	78	4.6
2004	63	7.3	12	1.4	75	4.4
2005	64	7.3	12	1.4	76	4.4
2006	56	6.3	22	2.6	78	4.5
2007	50	5.6	13	1.5	63	3.6
2008	45	5.0	17	1.9	62	3.5
2009	49	5.3	16	1.8	65	3.6
2010	48	5.1	17	1.9	65	3.5
2011	59	6.2	7	0.8	66	3.5
Percent change in rates (1991 and 2011)	...	-46.2	...	-77.6	...	-53.1
Percent change in rates (2001 and 2011)	...	-26.2	...	-65.3	...	-34.0

... not applicable
1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 spousal population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Note: Trends in spousal homicide are presented from 1991 onward to be in line with the availability of trend information on dating homicide and intimate partner homicide overall. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 in an effort to respond to changing information needs. Spousal homicide refers to homicide committed by legally married, separated, divorced, and common-law partners. Includes victims aged 15 years and older. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3.8
Victims of dating homicide, by sex, Canada, 1991 to 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total dating homicide victims	
Year	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
1991	32	7.3	4	1.0	36	4.3
1992	28	6.3	8	2.0	36	4.2
1993	20	4.4	10	2.4	30	3.5
1994	13	2.8	7	1.7	20	2.3
1995	14	3.0	11	2.6	25	2.8
1996	19	3.9	10	2.3	29	3.2
1997	16	3.3	4	0.9	20	2.1
1998	10	2.0	1	0.2	11	1.2
1999	17	3.4	3	0.7	20	2.1
2000	21	4.1	3	0.6	24	2.5
2001	7	1.3	6	1.3	13	1.3
2002	10	1.9	7	1.4	17	1.7
2003	8	1.5	3	0.6	11	1.1
2004	13	2.3	9	1.7	22	2.1
2005	14	2.5	3	0.6	17	1.6
2006	11	1.9	4	0.7	15	1.3
2007	9	1.5	10	1.8	19	1.7
2008	18	3.0	8	1.4	26	2.2
2009	18	3.0	5	0.9	23	2.0
2010	15	2.4	9	1.6	24	2.0
2011	17	2.7	6	1.0	23	1.9
Percent change between 1991 and 2011	...	-62.6	...	3.0	...	-55.6
Percent change between 2001 and 2011	...	103.3	...	-18.0	...	46.7

... not applicable
1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 unmarried population (single, divorced, widowed). For this table, the separated population has been excluded from the unmarried population. This is because prior to 2007, the separated population was combined with the legally married population. As a result, the population used for the calculation of dating homicide rates differs from the population used to calculate 2010 rates of dating violence. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Note: Dating partner homicides refers to homicides committed by boyfriends/girlfriends (current and previous), and other intimate partners. Includes victims aged 15 years and older. Data on homicides between dating partners are not available prior to 1991. The Homicide Survey was revised and expanded in 1991 in an effort to respond to changing information needs. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3.9
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence for selected violent offences, by sex of victim, 2009 to 2011

	2009		2010		2011		Percent change in rate
Type of offence	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**(2009 to 2011)**
Male victims							
Attempted murder	30	0.2	26	0.2	30	0.2	-2.4
Physical assault	15,659	114.8	15,676	113.4	15,877	113.5	-1
Common assault (level 1)	11,804	86.5	11,820	85.5	12,003	85.8	-1
Major assault, levels 2 and 3	3,855	28.3	3,856	27.9	3,874	27.7	-2
Sexual assault	55	0.4	49	0.4	58	0.4	3
Sexual assault, level 1	42	0.3	36	0.3	45	0.3	5
Sexual assault, levels 2 and 3	13	0.1	13	0.1	13	0.1	-2
Female victims							
Attempted murder	87	0.6	75	0.5	76	0.5	-14.7
Physical assault	56,496	404.3	55,493	392.3	55,444	387.6	-4
Common assault (level 1)	48,103	344.3	46,921	331.7	46,762	326.9	-5
Major assault, levels 2 and 3	8,393	60.1	8,572	60.6	8,682	60.7	1
Sexual assault	1,952	14.0	2,189	15.5	2,226	15.6	11
Sexual assault, level 1	1,825	13.1	2,054	14.5	2,105	14.7	13
Sexual assault, levels 2 and 3	127	0.9	135	1.0	121	0.8	-7
Total							
Attempted murder	117	0.4	101	0.4	106	0.4	-11.5
Physical assault	72,155	261.3	71,169	254.5	71,321	252.1	-3
Common assault (level 1)	59,907	216.9	58,741	210.0	58,765	207.7	-4
Major assault, levels 2 and 3	12,248	44.3	12,428	44.4	12,556	44.4	0
Sexual assault	2,007	7.3	2,238	8.0	2,284	8.1	11
Sexual assault, level 1	1,867	6.8	2,090	7.5	2,150	7.6	12
Sexual assault, levels 2 and 3	140	0.5	148	0.5	134	0.5	-7

1. Rate per 100,000 population.
Note: The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database represents 99% of police services in Canada. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Table 3.10
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and province/territory, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Province and territory	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,281	579	361	171	1,642	380
Prince Edward Island	296	475	77	130	373	307
Nova Scotia	2,165	525	618	160	2,783	349
New Brunswick	2,011	618	521	168	2,532	398
Quebec	16,174	481	3,917	119	20,091	302
Ontario	22,572	404	5,186	96	27,758	253
Manitoba	4,704	952	1,078	221	5,782	589
Saskatchewan	5,175	1,229	1,235	297	6,410	765
Alberta	10,370	689	2,871	183	13,241	431
British Columbia	11,325	581	3,177	167	14,502	376
Yukon	276	1,954	85	585	361	1,260
Northwest Territories	683	4,148	196	1,096	879	2,559
Nunavut	911	8,209	186	1,587	1,097	4,807

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Rates will be slightly underestimated since spousal and dating populations represent the entire population in Canada. Therefore, these populations are slightly higher than the population covered by the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (99% of Canadian population).
Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, opposite and same sex common-law, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. Excludes incidents where the sex or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3.11
Victims of police-reported intimate partner violence, by sex of victim and census metropolitan area, 2011

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	Female victims		Male victims		Total intimate partner violence victims	
	number	rate[3]	number	rate[3]	number	rate[3]
St. John's	434	529	129	168	563	355
Halifax	905	506	248	148	1,153	333
Moncton	419	699	122	216	541	465
Saint John	351	783	73	178	424	494
Saguenay	244	388	54	88	298	240
Québec	1,159	352	241	76	1,400	217
Sherbrooke	283	343	47	60	330	206
Trois-Rivières	245	371	50	80	295	230
Montréal	8,202	495	2,056	128	10,258	314
Gatineau[4]	813	625	213	167	1,026	398
Ottawa[5]	831	206	162	42	993	126
Kingston	274	391	52	77	326	238
Peterborough	184	339	45	90	229	219
Toronto[6]	8,441	378	1,748	82	10,189	234
Hamilton[7]	1,074	468	256	116	1,330	296
St. Catharines–Niagara	748	390	126	69	874	233
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	979	451	283	131	1,262	291
Brantford	307	548	94	175	401	366
Guelph	202	377	50	98	252	241
London	1,036	488	219	108	1,255	302
Windsor	663	524	128	104	791	317
Barrie	228	391	34	61	262	230
Greater Sudbury	365	519	85	126	450	326
Thunder Bay	464	891	125	252	589	579
Winnipeg	2,118	662	435	139	2,553	404
Regina	783	846	192	216	975	537
Saskatoon	912	801	202	180	1,114	492
Calgary	1,947	382	438	83	2,385	230
Edmonton	2,829	579	632	126	3,461	349
Kelowna	537	678	170	224	707	456
Abbotsford–Mission	475	663	82	114	557	388
Vancouver	4,695	450	1,218	121	5,913	288
Victoria	566	352	177	117	743	238
CMA total	**43,713**	**455**	**10,186**	**110**	**53,899**	**285**
Canada	**77,943**	**539**	**19,508**	**138**	**97,451**	**341**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
6. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
7. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police that police the CMA of Hamilton.

Note: Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by legally married, separated, divorced, opposite and same sex common-law, dating partners (current and previous) and other intimate partners. Intimate partner category includes victims aged 15 to 89. Excludes incidents where age and/or sex of the victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Section 4: Family violence against children and youth

By Maire Sinha

It is well documented that violence against children and youth can have devastating immediate consequences to children's physical and emotional well-being (Maniglio 2009; Wang and Holton 2007). When this violence occurs within the family, particularly if the violence is ongoing, the child or youth may also experience chronic fear of future violence and may be unable to cope in other areas of their lives, such as school and socialization with peer groups (Fox and Shonkoff 2012). These consequences can have prolonged effects over their lifespan, possibly influencing emotional and behavioural trajectories into adulthood (Murray and Farrington 2010).

In addition, violence perpetrated by family members often remains hidden and may never reach the attention of police or child welfare authorities, meaning that the abuse may continue in the absence of any outside intervention. While it is difficult to quantify the levels of underreporting to official authorities,[1] it has been suggested that violence against children may be more likely to be unreported to police compared to violence against older victims (United Nations 2011; AuCoin 2005). This is because children may be unable or reluctant to report their victimization due to their age and stage of physical, mental and cognitive development, combined with a possible fear of reprisals from the perpetrator or other family members (United Nations 2011; AuCoin 2005; Justice Canada 2001).

The responsibility to report violence against children and youth evidently does not fall solely on the victim. Every province and territory has enacted mandatory reporting laws requiring professionals working with children and often members of the general public to report when they suspect or believe that a child is in need of protection to authorities, either police or child welfare agencies (Trocmé et al. 2010). Due to the hidden nature of abuse, however, levels of detection and subsequent reporting by others may be low (Kesner et al. 2009; Lazenbatt and Freeman 2006).

While police-reported statistics capture only a portion of all cases of violence against children, particularly against the very young, they do provide important details of those incidents that reach the attention of police. The current analysis examines the extent and nature of family violence against children and youth using police-reported data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and the Homicide Survey. All types of *Criminal Code* violent violations against children and youth are considered, ranging from uttering threats, physical and sexual violence, to homicide.

Children and youth far more likely than adults to be sexually victimized

Historically, children and youth have been less likely than the adult population to be victims of violent crime coming to the attention of police. This was also the case in 2011. Police reported nearly 70,000 child victims of violence or a rate of 1,014 victims per 100,000 population under the age of 18 (Table 4.1). This rate was 9% lower than the rate for adults. While the overall prevalence of violence against children and youth was lower than violence directed at adults, this was not consistently seen across all types of violent offences.

In 2011, children and youth were far more likely to be victims of sexual offences, with police-reported rates five times higher than among adults (207 victims per 100,000 versus 41 victims per 100,000). This was true for all types of sexual assaults, as well other sexual offences. Included in the latter category are those violations specific to children, such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, luring a child via a computer, sexual exploitation, and corrupting children.

1. Unlike for older victims, where population-based surveys such as the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization are able to provide indicators of self-reported victimization experiences and levels of reporting to police, there is no equivalent national survey instrument for all children and youth. The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization captures data on Canadians aged 15 years and older. Hence, some information is available for older youths aged 15 to 17, though it is not releasable due to small counts.

Family members account for one-quarter of those accused of violence against children and youth

Most often, child and youth victims of violence know the perpetrator. About one-quarter (26%) of those accused of violence against children and youth were family members, including a parent, step-parent, foster parent, sibling, grandparent or extended family member, while another 53% were either acquaintances or friends of the child or youth.

In total, police reported just over 18,300 child victims of family-related violence in 2011. This represented a rate of 267 child victims of family violence for every 100,000 Canadians under the age of 18.

Family members were the most common perpetrator in the most serious forms of violence against children and youth, including homicide (51%) and attempted murder (43%) (Chart 4.1). They were also more often implicated in abduction, forcible confinement and kidnapping offences, which were generally driven by the parent-specific offence of parental abduction (42%). The offences with a lower representation of family members as accused were sexual offences, intimidation offences (such as criminal harassment and uttering threats) as well as physical assaults.

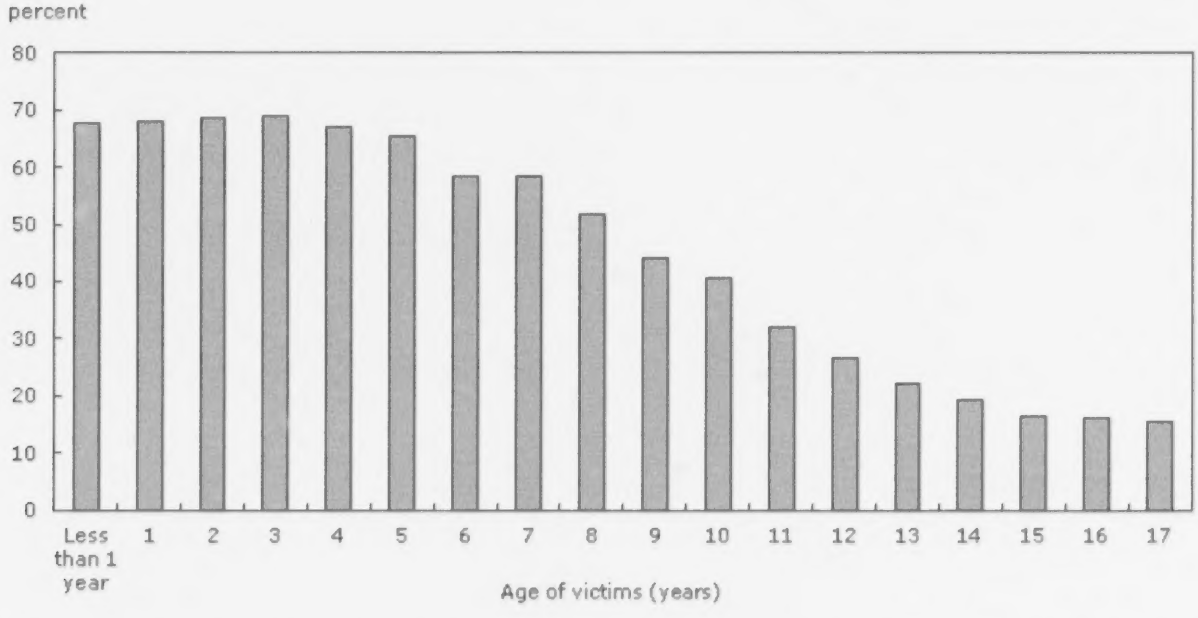
Chart 4.1
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of accused-victim relationship and type of offence, Canada, 2011

1. Physical assault includes all forms of assaults, including assault levels 1,2, and 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm and other assaults.
2. Sexual offences include sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual violations, including child-specific offences, such as luring a child and sexual exploitation.
3. Other violent offences include criminal negligence causing death, criminal harassment, uttering threats, indecent or harassing phone calls, trafficking in persons and other violent violations.
Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses. Friend/acquaintance includes casual acquaintances, friends, dating partners, neighbours, authority figures (e.g., teacher, daycare worker), criminal relationships and business relationships. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Young children most likely to be victimized by a family member

As a reflection of young children's dependency on their primary caregivers and their possible insulation from such social systems as schools, infants and toddlers were more likely to be victimized by a member of their own family than any other type of perpetrator. In 2011, 68% of infants under one and 69% of children aged one to three were victimized by a family member, most often a parent or step-parent (Chart 4.2). When children enter school, family members still represent the majority of accused, though to a somewhat lesser extent. For instance, 67% of four-year old victims were victimized by a family member, dropping to 66% of five-year olds and 59% of six-year old victims.

Chart 4.2
Proportion of child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) victimized by a family member, by age, Canada, 2011



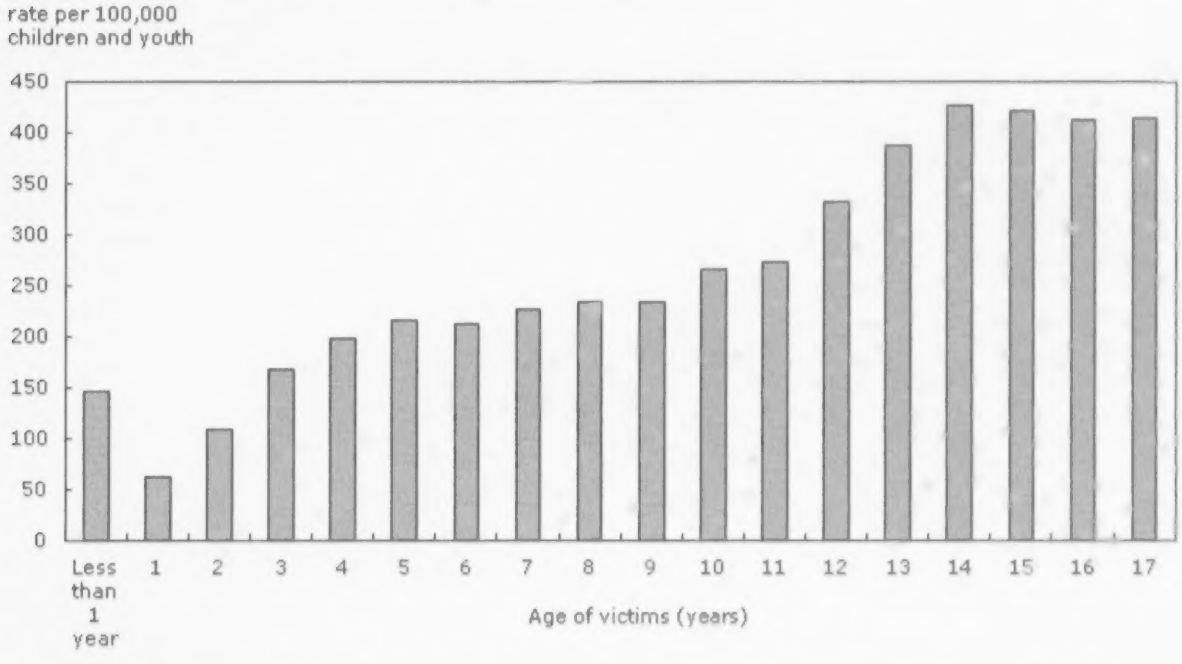
Note: Family member includes parents, siblings, extended family members and spouses. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

By the time children reach the age of 9, family members become less likely than non-family members to be responsible for police-reported violence against children. For instance, for youth aged 12 to 17, well over half (57%) of all violent offences were committed by friends or acquaintances, followed by strangers (24%) and family members (18%). This shift in the most common perpetrator can be partly explained by older children's broadening of activities outside the family.

Rates of police-reported violence increase as children grow older

The overall prevalence of police-reported violence tends to increase as children get older, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a family member or someone outside the family (Chart 4.3). As a result, the rate of police-reported family violence against children is lowest for young children, while youth have the highest rate. An important caveat to these findings is the possible lower level of reporting to police for violence against young children. These young children often have fewer contacts outside the family and a reduced ability to report their own victimization to police. As a result, there may be a greater underestimation of rates of police-reported violence against young children.

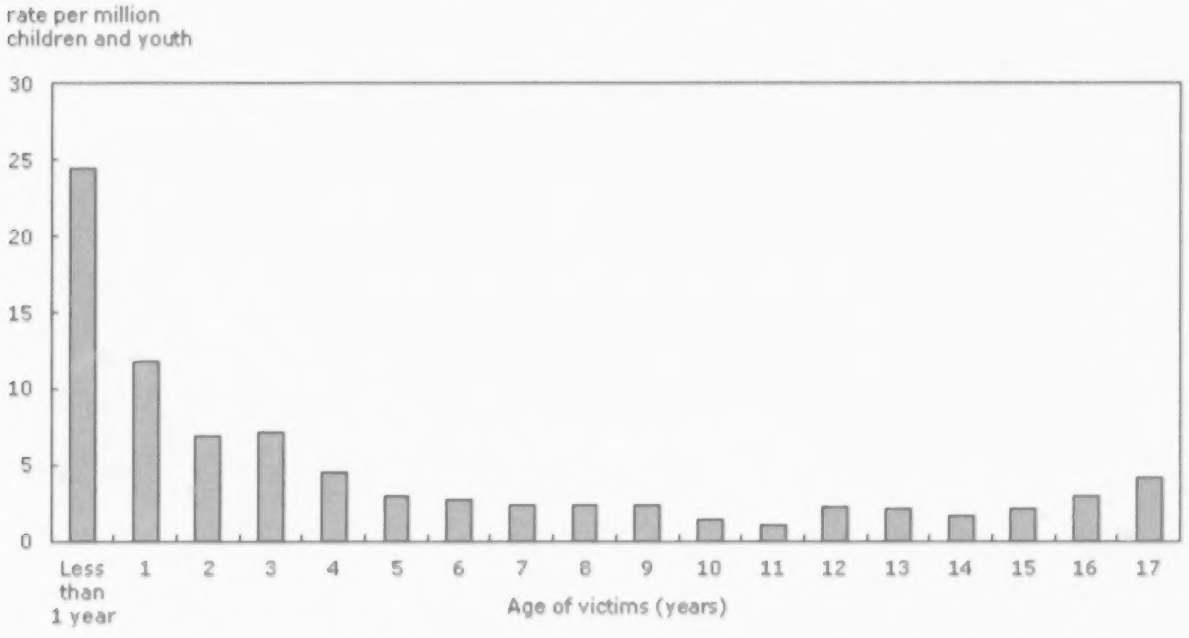
Chart 4.3
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by age of victim, Canada, 2011



Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

By contrast, the rate of familial homicides, the most serious form of violence and most often reported, was highest for the youngest children. Over a ten-year period, infants under the age of one were most at risk of being killed by a family member, with rates that were at least double any other age group (Chart 4.4). The next highest rates of familial homicides were recorded for toddlers and preschoolers aged 1 to 3. Rates generally subside with age and then increase to a smaller degree in late adolescence.

Chart 4.4
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicides, by age of victim, Canada, 2001 to 2011



Note: Family-related homicides refers to homicides committed by parents, siblings, extended family members, and spouses. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Shaken Baby Syndrome most common cause of death in the homicide of infants

The causes of death in familial homicides vary by the age of the victim. The youngest children, infants, were most often killed as a result of violent shaking, also known as Shaken Baby Syndrome. Over a ten-year period, nearly one in three infant victims under the age of one (31%) was killed this way (Table 4.2). Beating was the most common method against children aged 1 to 3, and along with strangulation and suffocation, it was also the most prevalent for those aged 4 to 6. Unlike younger age groups, youth aged 12 to 17 were most often killed by a family member as a result of stabbing (32%).

Using the Homicide Survey, it is also possible to examine the underlying motivating factors behind familial homicide of children and youth. For every age group, a feeling of frustration and anger was the most common motive in family homicides against children and youth, though it generally decreased in prevalence with age (Table 4.3). More specifically, about seven in ten familial homicides of children aged three and younger were the result of the accused person's frustration, anger or despair. In comparison, frustration was identified as the motive in 33% of family homicides of youth aged 12 to 17, followed by the motive of an escalation of an argument (21%).

Girls more often than boys the victims of family violence

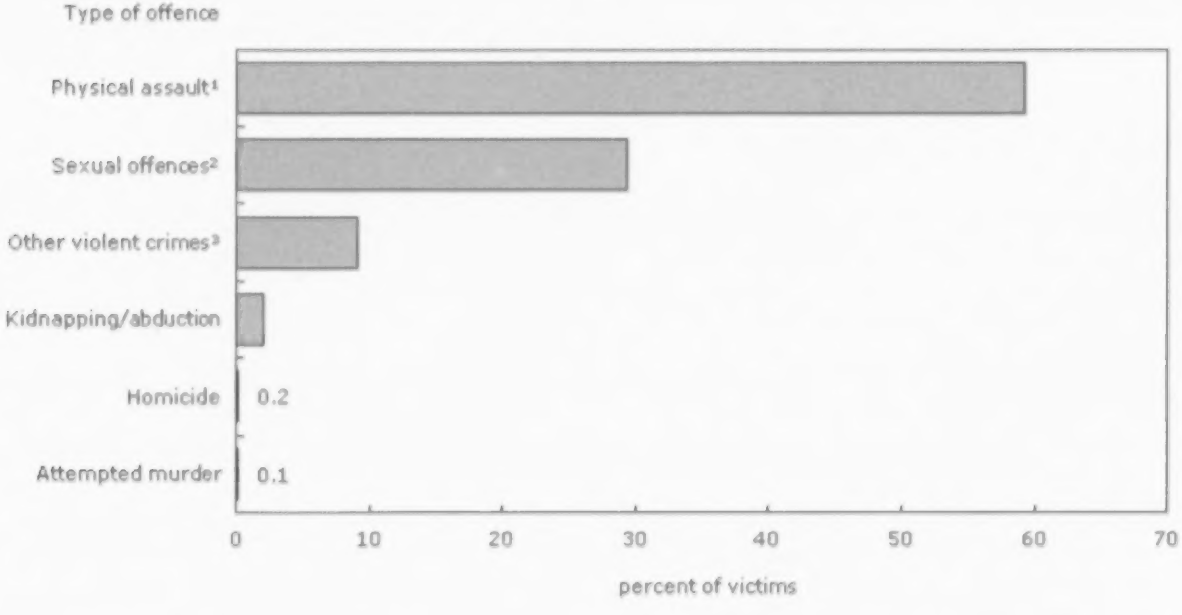
Girls are disproportionally represented as victims of family violence. In 2011, rates of family violence were 56% higher for girls than boys. This disparity in rates of family violence between girls and boys was more muted in the younger age groups, with girls and boys experiencing similar rates before three years of age. However, by age three, girls outnumbered boys as victims of family violence. This gap continued to widen with age, peaking in adolescence. By age 15, the rate for girls was double the rate for boys (566 per 100,000 population versus 281 per 100,000 population).

Girls consistently experienced higher rates of family violence for nearly every type of violent offence. However, this risk was most marked for sexually-based offences. Girls were four times more likely than boys to be a victim of police-reported sexual assault or other type of sexual offence at the hands of a family member (129 per 100,000 versus 30 per 100,000) (Table 4.4).

Most child and youth victims of family violence do not sustain physical injury

While physical assaults accounted for nearly six in ten incidents of family violence against children (Chart 4.5), most child and youth victims did not sustain physical injury. In 2011, six in ten child and youth victims of family violence were not physically injured. When injuries were sustained, most of the victims (97%) required no professional medical treatment or required only some first aid. Less than 1% of child and youth victims of family violence suffered major injuries or death.

Chart 4.5
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by type of offence, Canada, 2011



1. Physical assault includes all forms of assaults, including assault levels 1, 2, and 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm and other assaults.
2. Sexual offences include sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual violations, including child-specific offences, such as luring a child and sexual exploitation.
3. Other violent offences include criminal harassment, uttering threats, indecent or harassing phone calls, robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, explosives causing death/bodily harm, hostage taking, and other violent violations.
Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The low incidence of physical injury does not necessarily mean that no harm has been inflicted. Previous research has shown that the consequences of violence on children and youth can have short and long-term impacts on the behavioural, developmental and emotional wellbeing of children (Murray and Farrington 2010).

Physical injury was more likely to be sustained when the child victim was an infant (one year of age or less). Nearly half (47%) of these victims sustained some type of injury, with 15% of infants under the age of one and 5% of one-year olds sustaining either major injuries or death. These patterns may reflect differences in reporting rates to police. Since family violence incidents against infants must be reported by someone other than the direct victim, reporting by others may only occur when the incidents are severe and involve social systems, such as hospital emergency departments.

In most incidents of family violence against children (75%), the accused used their own physical force with the intention to inflict physical injury. Another 15% of incidents involved a weapon of some kind, while 10% of incidents used neither physical force nor a weapon (e.g., when accused used threats).

Less than half of family violence incidents against children resulted in charges

The formal response to family violence against children and youth is multifaceted, involving various systems, including the criminal and civil justice systems, child welfare and protective services, educational programs and primary health care systems. Oftentimes, these systems work in collaboration to meet the needs of child and youth victims of family violence (Regan n.d.). For example, police will often work in partnership with child welfare authorities to reduce the number of times a young victim will be interviewed as part of a criminal investigation.

During the course of the investigation, police may charge an accused or may deal with or clear the incident in another way, such as through departmental discretion. Alternatively, the incident may not be cleared. This can occur when a suspect has been identified but there is insufficient evidence to lay a charge.[2] In 2011, police laid or recommended charges in 44% of incidents of family violence against children and youth, while 30% of incidents were cleared in another way, such as through departmental discretion. In comparison, 59% of family violence incidents against adult victims aged 18 years and over resulted in charges being laid or recommended and 27% were cleared in another way.

Saskatchewan records the highest provincial rate of family violence against children and youth

Like violent crime in general, regional variations in family violence against children and youth can be influenced by a number of factors, such as differences in levels of detection and reporting. Overall, rates of family violence against children and youth tend to be higher in the territories than in the provinces. In particular, rates in the territories were at least double the national average, with Nunavut having a rate in 2011 that was nearly seven times the average for Canada (1,818 per 100,000 population versus 267 per 100,000) (Table 4.5).

Provincially, Saskatchewan recorded the highest rate, with 578 child victims for every 100,000 children and youth under the age of 18. The next highest provincial rates were recorded by Newfoundland and Labrador (420 per 100,000) and Manitoba (391 per 100,000). All CMAs in these provinces had rates on par or higher than Canada as a whole (Table 4.6). The lowest provincial rate was in Ontario, though considerable variations in rates existed between the CMAs in this province.

Familial homicides against children and youth remain rare occurrences

Trends in the physical and sexual assaults of children can be examined for a three-year period using the Incident-based UCR Trend database, which covers virtually all police services in Canada.[3] At a rate of 156 victims per 100,000 children and youth, family-perpetrated physical assaults[4] against children and youth were relatively stable from 2009 to 2011 (Table 4.7). This was true regardless of the sex of the child victim and was entirely attributed to a stable trend in level 1 common assault, the least serious form of physical assaults that results in little to no physical injury. Over this same three-year period, serious physical assaults against children and youth were up 6%, from a rate of 28 victims per 100,000 population to 30 victims per 100,000.

2. The incident may not be cleared at the time of reporting to the UCR Survey, but may be cleared by police at a later time. Updates to the clearance status on the UCR Survey are made accordingly.
3. The Incident-based UCR Trend database represents 99% of police services in Canada. Analysis of the three-year trend database is limited to only those offences that have complete victim records and where UCR offence classification has remained constant over the three-year period.
4. Includes levels 1, 2, and 3.

Between 2009 and 2011, family-related sexual assaults[5] against children and youth dropped 7%. While this decrease was seen for both female and male victims, it was more pronounced for male victims. In particular, the rate of sexual assaults against boys fell 16%, compared to a 4% drop in sexual assaults against girls. These trends in sexual assault do not include child-specific sexual offences, such as luring a child over the Internet and invitation to sexual touching, which have generally increased in recent years (Brennan 2012).

Given that homicide is less prone to issues of reporting to police, trend information on homicides against children and youth is often considered as a barometer of the changing level of violence against children and youth, at least for the most severe forms of violence (Nivette 2011; United Nations 2011). Long-term trend data from the Homicide Survey indicate that familial homicides against children and youth have remained relatively rare occurrences and given this rarity they tend to fluctuate widely year-over-year (Chart 4.6).

Chart 4.6
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicides, by sex of the victim, Canada, 1981 to 2011

Note: Family-related homicides refers to homicides committed by parents, siblings, extended family members, and spouses. Excludes homicides where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 children and youth population (0 to 17 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Summary

This section examined police-reported family violence against children and youth, highlighting the fact family members were the most common perpetrator in the most serious forms of violence and were also most often implicated in violence involving children under the age of 9. Rates of violence against children and youth, including family violence, tended to increase as children age, though rates of homicide remained most prevalent among infants and young children.

As in previous years, there is a combined effect of age and sex on rates of police-reported family violence. Girls were more likely than boys to be victims of family violence, with this elevated risk intensifying with age. Girls, particularly as they grow older, have much higher rates of being a victim of sexual offences than do boys.

5. Includes levels 1, 2, and 3.

In the majority of incidents of family violence against children, perpetrators used their own physical force, rather than weapons, to threaten the child or to inflict some form of physical injury. Less than half of child and youth victims of police-reported family violence sustained physical injury.

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Detailed data tables

Table 4.1
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of offence and age of victim, Canada, 2011

	Adult victims (18 years and older)		Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years)		Children and youth victims by age group						Total victims
					Less than 3 years		3 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		
Type of offence	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number
Homicide/attempted murder	**1,161**	**4.3**	**121**	**1.8**	**27**	**2.3**	**29**	**0.9**	**65**	**2.7**	**1,282**
Murder, manslaughter, infanticide	537	2.0	56	0.8	15	1.3	16	0.5	25	1.0	593
Criminal negligence causing death	61	0.2	12	0.2	4	0.3	0	0.0	8	0.3	73
Other related offences causing death	2	0.01	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Attempted murder/Conspire to commit murder	561	2.1	53	0.8	8	0.7	13	0.4	32	1.3	614
Sexual offences	**11,222**	**41**	**14,190**	**207**	**271**	**24**	**5,273**	**160**	**8,646**	**358**	**25,412**
Sexual assault (level 3) - aggravated	96	0.4	39	0.6	1	0.1	6	0.2	32	1	135
Sexual assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	274	1	110	2	2	0.2	22	1	86	4	384
Sexual assault (level 1)	10,445	38	10,305	150	153	13	3,640	110	6,512	269	20,750
Sexual interference	...	...	2,418	35	100	9	1,195	36	1,123	46	2,418
Invitation to sexual touching	...	...	546	8	11	1	230	7	305	13	546
Luring a child via a computer	...	...	322	5	0	0	59	2	263	11	322
Incest	47	0.2	156	2	3	0.3	74	2	79	3	203
Sexual exploitation	19	0.1	113	2	0	0	1	0.03	112	5	132
Voyeurism	323	1.2	136	2	1	0.1	23	1	112	5	459
Corrupting children	...	...	39	1	0	0	21	0.6	18	0.7	39
Anal intercourse	16	0.1	4	0.1	0	0	0	0	4	0.2	20
Bestiality - commit, compel, incite a person	2	0.01	2	0.03	0	0	2	0.06	0	0	4
Assaults	**195,107**	**718**	**36,629**	**534**	**1,023**	**89**	**7,528**	**228**	**28,078**	**1,162**	**231,736**
Assault (level 3) - aggravated	2,991	11	325	5	64	6	20	1	241	10	3,316
Assault (level 2) - weapon or causing bodily harm	41,160	151	7,489	109	197	17	1,586	48	5,706	236	48,649
Assault (level 1)	138,777	511	28,252	412	734	64	5,792	176	21,726	899	167,029
Pointing a firearm	484	2	115	2	1	0.1	21	1	93	4	599
Unlawfully causing bodily harm	374	1	54	1	7	1	8	0.2	39	2	428

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 4.1 (continued)
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported violent crime, by type of offence and age of victim, Canada, 2011 (continued)

	Adult victims (18 years and older)		Children and youth victims (0 to 17 years)		Children and youth victims by age group						Total victims
					Less than 3 years		3 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		
Type of offence	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**
Criminal negligence causing bodily harm	190	1	111	2	17	1	53	2	41	2	301
Using firearm or imitation firearm in commission of offence	148	1	33	0.5	0	0	6	0.2	27	1	181
Discharge firearm with intent	156	1	37	1	0	0	11	0.3	26	1	193
Trap likely to or causing bodily harm	2	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other assaults[2]	10,825	40	213	3	3	0	31	1	179	7	11,038
Deprivation of freedom	**3,197**	**12**	**873**	**13**	**93**	**8**	**332**	**10**	**448**	**19**	**4,070**
Kidnapping and forcible confinement	3,197	12	483	7	18	2	94	3	371	15	3,680
Abduction/Removal of child from Canada	...	...	390	6	75	7	238	7	77	3	390
Other violent offences	**92,095**	**339**	**17,762**	**259**	**369**	**32**	**1,861**	**56**	**15,532**	**643**	**109,857**
Criminal harassment	14,183	52	1,847	27	8	1	177	5	1,662	69	16,030
Uttering threats	44,713	165	7,925	115	278	24	1,325	40	6,322	262	52,638
Indecent or harassing phone calls	10,546	39	831	12	5	0.4	51	2	775	32	11,377
Trafficking in persons	43	0.2	14	0.2	0	0	0	0	14	0.6	57
Other[3]	22,610	83	7,145	104	78	7	308	9	6,759	280	29,755
Total	**302,782**	**1,114**	**69,575**	**1,014**	**1,783**	**155**	**15,023**	**456**	**52,769**	**2,183**	**372,357**

... not applicable
1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Includes assaults against police and other peace officers, as well as other types of assaults such as administering noxious thing.
3. Other violent offences include robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, intimidation of a justice system participant or journalist, intimation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death/bodily harm, hostage taking, and other violent violations.
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.2
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicides, by age group of the victim and cause of death, Canada, 2001 to 2011

	Victim's age group											
	Less than 1 year		1 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		Total	
Cause of death	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Strangulation, suffocation or drowning	24	27	21	21	8	21	10	26	17	24	80	24
Beating	23	26	36	36	8	21	4	11	6	8	77	23
Stabbing	4	4	14	14	7	18	9	24	23	32	57	17
Shaken Baby Syndrome[1]	28	31	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	12
Shooting	0	0	6	6	5	13	9	24	16	22	36	11
Poisoning or lethal injection	0	0	3	3	7	18	2	5	5	7	17	5
Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	0	0	3	3	0	0	2	5	2	3	7	2
Other[2]	10	11	4	4	4	10	2	5	3	4	23	7
Unknown	6	...	2	...	2	...	3	...	0	...	13	...
Total	**95**	**100**	**101**	**100**	**41**	**100**	**41**	**100**	**72**	**100**	**350**	**100**

... not applicable
1. 'Shaken Baby Syndrome' refers to homicides committed against a baby (under the age of three years) where the primary cause of death resulted from being shaken, tossed or thrown.
2. Includes causes of death not otherwise stated. Examples include exposure/hypothermia, deaths caused by motor vehicles, starvation, heat, etc.
Note: Family-related homicides refers to homicides committed by parents, siblings, extended family members, and spouses. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Percentages exclude homicides in which the cause of death was reported by police as unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4.3
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of family-related homicides, by age group of the victim and motive, Canada, 2001 to 2011

	Victim's age group											
	Less than 1 year		1 to 3 years		4 to 6 years		7 to 11 years		12 to 17 years		Total	
Motive	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**	**#**	**%**
Argument	2	2	2	2	2	5	3	8	14	21	23	7
Frustration	59	69	67	71	25	66	19	53	22	33	192	60
Jealousy	0	0	10	11	2	5	3	8	4	6	19	6
Revenge	0	0	6	6	4	11	5	14	8	12	23	7
Concealment[1]	22	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	7
Other[2]	1	1	0	0	2	5	2	6	7	10	12	4
No apparent motive	2	2	9	10	3	8	4	11	12	18	30	9
Unknown	9	...	7	...	3	...	5	...	5	...	29	...
Total	**95**	**100**	**101**	**100**	**41**	**100**	**41**	**100**	**72**	**100**	**350**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Concealment includes all homicides where the suspect's primary motive was concealment. This is the most common motive for infanticides.
2. Other motives can include fear of apprehension, mercy killing, sexual violence and other motives.
Note: Family-related homicides refers to homicides committed by parents, siblings, extended family members, and spouses. Excludes homicides where the age and/or sex of the victim was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years. Percentages exclude homicides in which the cause of death was reported by police as unknown. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4.4
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by sex of the victim and type of offence, Canada, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Type of offence	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**
Homicide[2]	12	0.4	19	0.5	31	0.5
Attempted murder	8	0.2	15	0.4	23	0.3
Physical assault[3]	5,463	163	5,385	153	10,848	158
Sexual offences[4]	4,320	129	1,041	30	5,361	78
Kidnapping/abduction	220	7	147	4	367	5
Other violent crimes[5]	890	27	782	22	1,672	24

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Unlike the Homicide Survey, this category includes criminal negligence causing death and other related offences causing death in addition to murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
3. Physical assaults includes all forms of assaults, including assault levels 1, 2, and 3, unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm and other assaults.
4. Sexual offences include sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3 and other sexual violations, including child-specific offences, such as luring a child and sexual exploitation.
5. Other violent offences include criminal harassment, uttering threats, indecent or harassing phone calls, robbery, extortion, arson - disregard for human life, intimidation of a justice system participant or journalist, intimation of a non-justice participant, explosives causing death/bodily harm, hostage taking, and other violent violations.
Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.5
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by province and territory, 2011

	Victims of family violence[1]	
Province and territory	**number**	**rate[2]**
Newfoundland and Labrador	390	420
Prince Edward Island	77	263
Nova Scotia	538	312
New Brunswick	512	365
Quebec	4,543	301
Ontario	5,175	193
Manitoba	1,089	391
Saskatchewan	1,394	578
Alberta	2,078	248
British Columbia	2,123	251
Yukon	45	625
Northwest Territories	111	982
Nunavut	227	1,818
Canada	**18,302**	**267**

1. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses.
2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.6
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence, by census metropolitan area, 2011

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	Victims of family violence[3]	
	number	rate[4]
Saguenay	107	423
Moncton	96	377
Saskatoon	214	368
Saint John	70	340
Trois-Rivières	80	320
St. John's	107	305
Regina	138	292
Kelowna	84	264
Montréal	1,939	253
Halifax	185	253
Greater Sudbury	76	250
Brantford	69	247
Québec	321	246
Kingston	64	225
Victoria	126	224
Edmonton	542	221
Hamilton[5]	231	215
Winnipeg	341	215
Gatineau[6]	138	213
London	199	201
Thunder Bay	42	196
Sherbrooke	68	194
Toronto[7]	2,031	188
Vancouver	777	176
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	200	175
St. Catharines-Niagara	142	170
Peterborough	34	157
Windsor	100	157
Abbotsford-Mission	60	148
Barrie	46	144
Calgary	380	140
Guelph	33	129
Ottawa[8]	166	89
CMA total	**9,206**	**206**
Canada	**18,302**	**267**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses.
4. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 populations. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
5. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
6. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
7. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
8. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Note: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Excludes spousal victims under the age of 15 years.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4.7
Child and youth victims (0 to 17 years) of police-reported family violence for selected violent offences, by sex of victim, 2009 to 2011

	2009		2010		2011		Percent change in rate (2009 to 2011)
Type of offence	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	
Male victims							
Physical assault	5,293	151	5,306	152	5,297	151	0.2
Common assault (level 1)	4,274	122	4,209	120	4,190	120	-1.9
Major assault, levels 2 and 3	1,019	29	1,097	31	1,107	32	8.7
Sexual assault	860	25	812	23	718	21	-16.4
Sexual assault, level 1	855	24	805	23	707	20	-17.2
Sexual assault, levels 2 and 3	5	0	7	0	11	0	120.2
Female victims							
Physical assault	5,366	161	5,452	164	5,353	161	-0.1
Common assault (level 1)	4,458	134	4,484	135	4,429	133	-0.5
Major assault, levels 2 and 3	908	27	968	29	924	28	1.9
Sexual assault	3,290	99	3,413	103	3,137	94	-4.5
Sexual assault, level 1	3,262	98	3,378	102	3,118	94	-4.3
Sexual assault, levels 2 and 3	28	1	35	1	19	1	-32.0
Total							
Physical assault	10,659	156	10,758	158	10,650	156	0.0
Common assault (level 1)	8,732	128	8,693	127	8,619	126	-1.2
Major assault, levels 2 and 3	1,927	28	2,065	30	2,031	30	5.5
Sexual assault	4,150	61	4,225	62	3,855	57	-7.0
Sexual assault, level 1	4,117	60	4,183	61	3,825	56	-7.0
Sexual assault, levels 2 and 3	33	0	42	1	30	0	-9.0

1. Rate per 100,000 population.
Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by parents, siblings, extended family and spouses. The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database represents 99% of police services in Canada. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Section 5: Family violence against seniors

By Shannon Brennan

Population projections have indicated that the number of seniors living in Canada will grow considerably over the coming decades. Between 2006 and 2011 alone, the number of Canadians aged 65 and older increased by 14%, and now totals close to 5 million people (Statistics Canada 2012).

Historically, seniors have experienced the lowest rates of victimization. However, there are mounting concerns that the growth of the senior population may result in increased victimization and violence against this group (Sev'er 2009). As a result, many provinces are developing strategies to address this issue. As family members often assume the role of caregiver for aging seniors, many of the strategies focus on preventing violence within families (see, for example, Province of British Columbia 2013, Together to Reduce Elder Abuse – B.C.'s Strategy).

Using police-reported data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, this section will present information on the nature and extent of family violence against seniors. It will examine the prevalence of family violence against seniors at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. In addition, this section will explore the characteristics of family violence against seniors, presenting information on the most common types of violence experienced, the use of weapons, injuries sustained and how these incidents are cleared by police. Finally, this section will conclude with a discussion of homicide, the most serious form of family violence against seniors.

One-third of all violent crimes committed against seniors are family-related

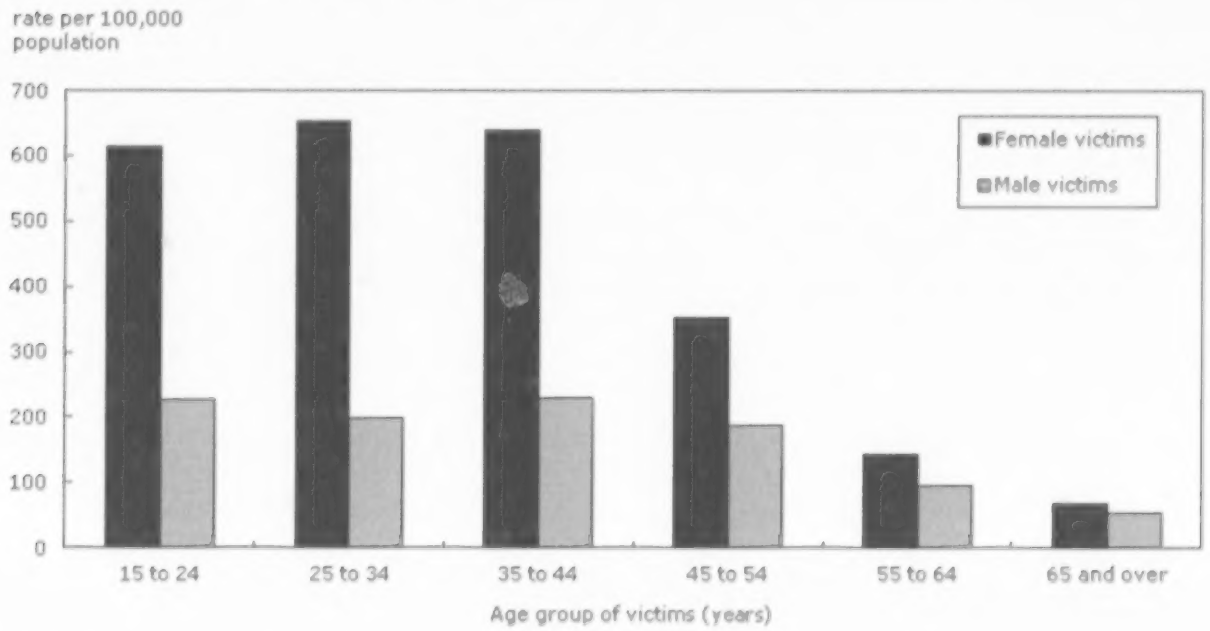
In 2011, about 8,500 senior Canadians[1] (aged 65 years and older) were the victim of a violent crime. More than one-third (34%) of these were victimized by a family member, while just under one in five (19%) were victimized by a casual acquaintance. More than one-quarter (27%) of seniors who had been victimized in 2011 were victimized by a stranger.

In total, there were more than 2,850 senior victims of family-related violence in 2011, representing 61 senior victims per 100,000 population (Table 5.1). Data from a subset of police services shows that violence against seniors has remained stable over the past three years.

Compared to other victims, those aged 65 and older have consistently reported the lowest rates of family-violence, a trend which continued in 2011. Among both men and women, the rate of family violence against seniors was considerably lower compared to victims of other ages. For example, the rate of family violence among senior women was close to 10 times lower than the rate for women aged 25 to 34 (Chart 5.1).

1. Accused persons and victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

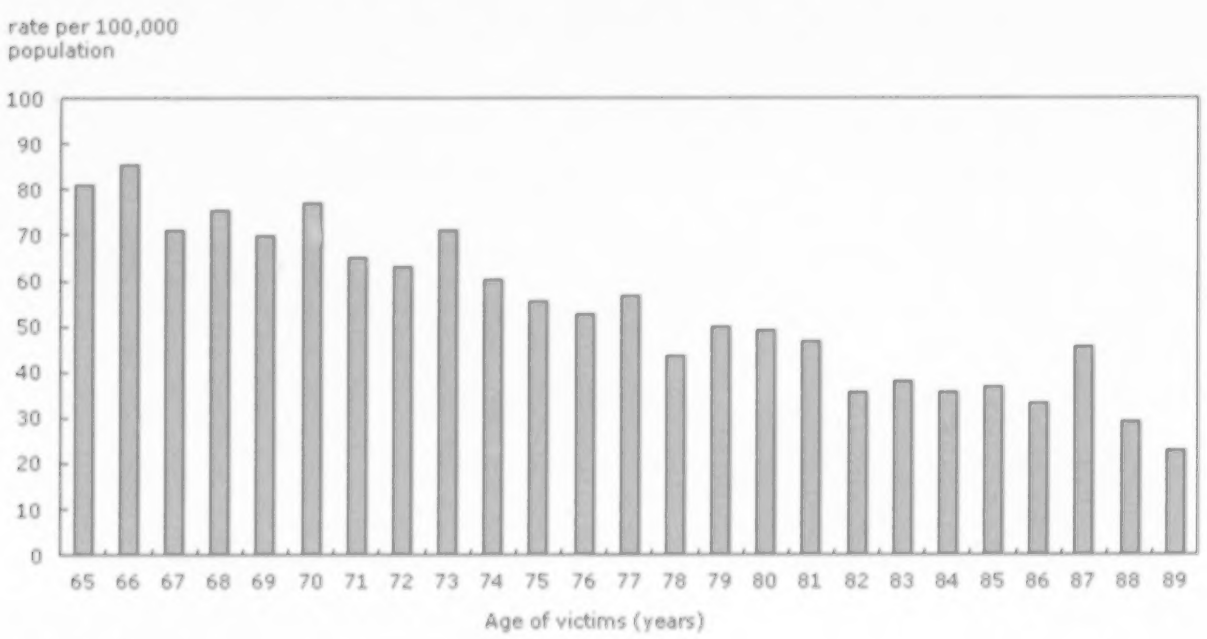
Chart 5.1
Victims of police-reported family violence, by age group and sex, Canada, 2011



Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

The rate of police-reported family violence was not the same for all seniors. Just as younger Canadians were at greater risk of experiencing family-related violence compared to seniors, younger seniors were at greater risk compared to older seniors. For example, those aged 65 had a rate of police-reported family violence that was three and a half times higher than the rate for those aged 89 (Chart 5.2).

Chart 5.2
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by age of victim, Canada, 2011



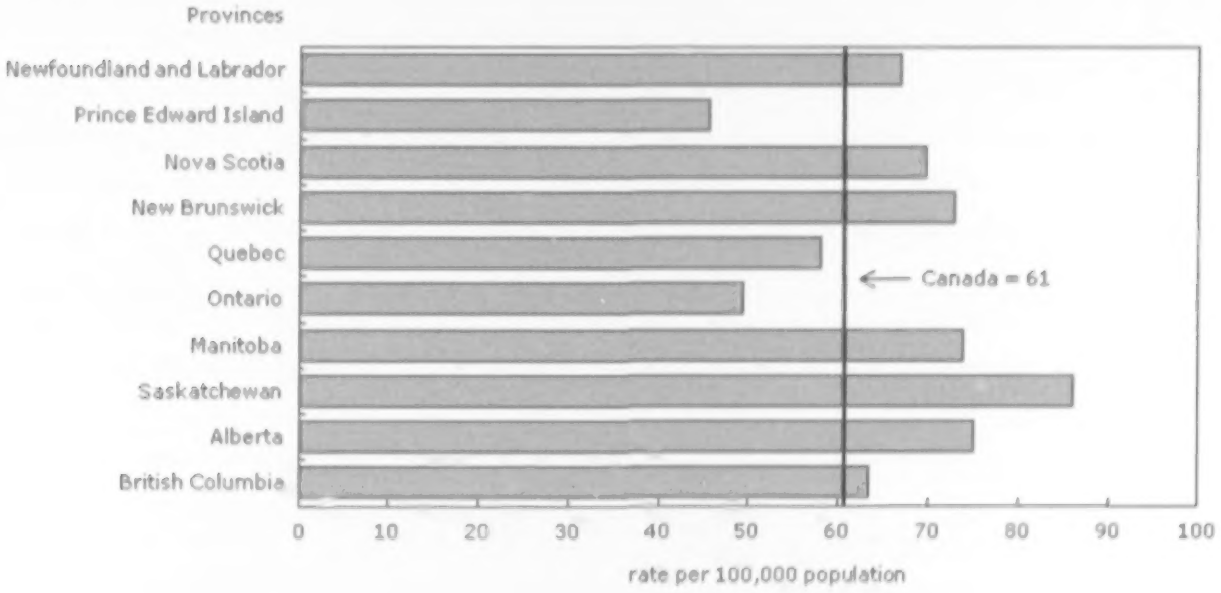
Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

Rates of family-violence against seniors also differed depending on the sex of the victim. In 2011, the rate of family violence against senior women was higher than the rate of family violence for senior males (67 versus 53 per 100,000 population).

Family violence against seniors highest in the western provinces

Similar to crime in general, rates of family violence against seniors in 2011 were highest in the territories and the western provinces (Table 5.2, Chart 5.3). Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba reported the highest rates among the provinces, while Nunavut reported the highest rate among the territories. In contrast, Prince Edward Island had the lowest rate of police-reported family violence against seniors, followed by Ontario and Quebec.

Chart 5.3
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by province, 2011



Note: Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

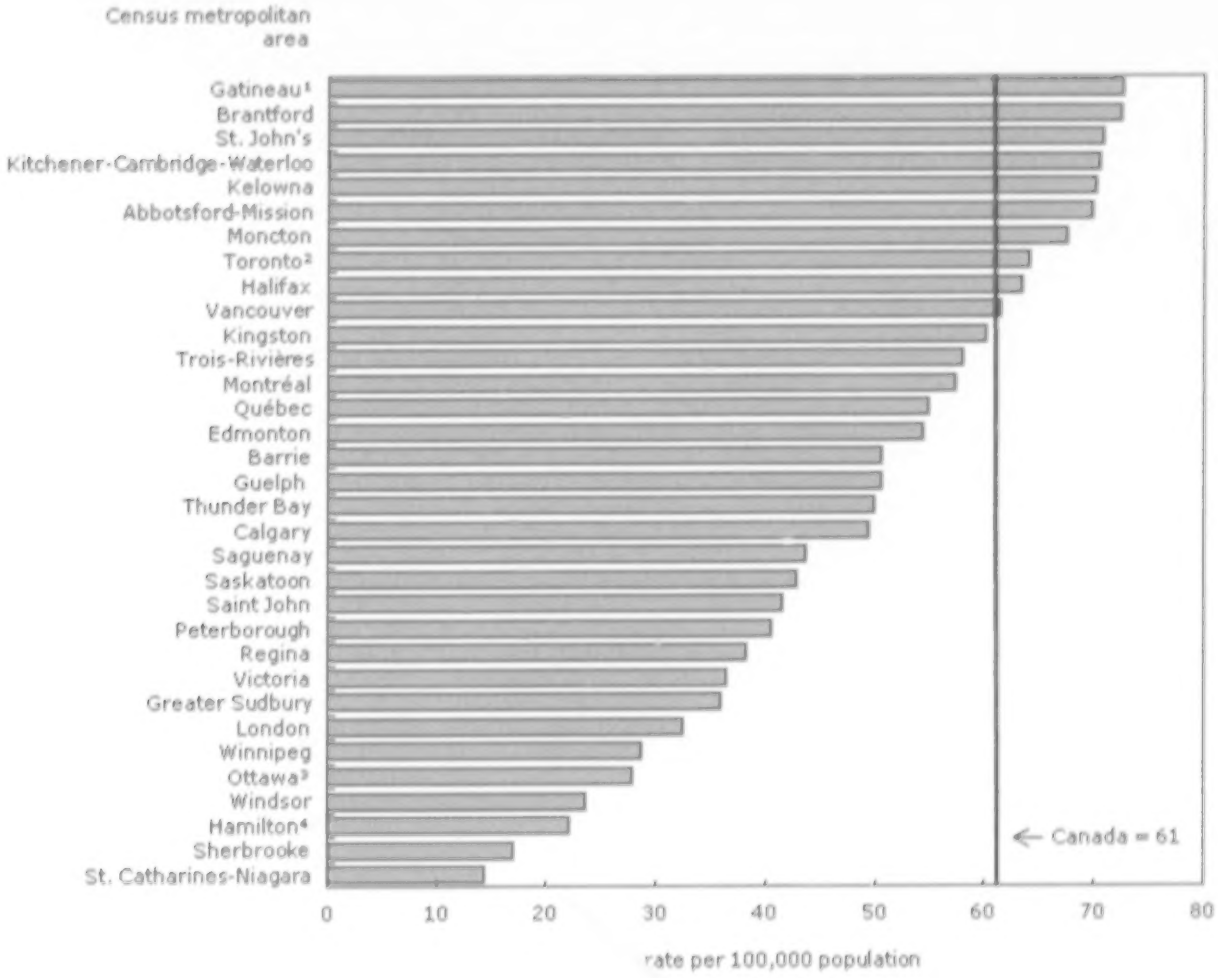
While there was variation among the provinces in regards to the prevalence of family violence against seniors, there were also differences based on the sex of the victim. More specifically, although data at the national level indicate that senior women are at elevated risk of experiencing family violence, this was not true for all provinces. For example, senior men living in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan were more likely than senior women to be a victim of family violence (Table 5.2).

Family violence against seniors higher in non-census metropolitan areas

Previous studies have found that family violence against seniors tends to be lower in census metropolitan areas (CMAs) compared to smaller towns and cities (Sinha 2012). This was also found to be the case in 2011 (Table 5.3). The rate of family violence against seniors in CMAs was 53 per 100,000 population, considerably lower than the rate in non-CMAs (76 per 100,000 population). There are a variety of factors which may help to explain the higher prevalence of family violence against seniors in smaller towns, cities and rural areas, including geographic isolation and fewer resources (Grama 2000).

Among the 33 CMAs, Gatineau reported the highest rate of family violence against seniors, followed by Brantford, St. John's and Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo. Conversely, the lowest rates of family violence against seniors were reported in the CMAs of St. Catharines-Niagara, Sherbrooke, Hamilton and Windsor (Chart 5.4).

Chart 5.4
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by census metropolitan area, 2011



1. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
2. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
3. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
4. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.

Note: A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced, common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

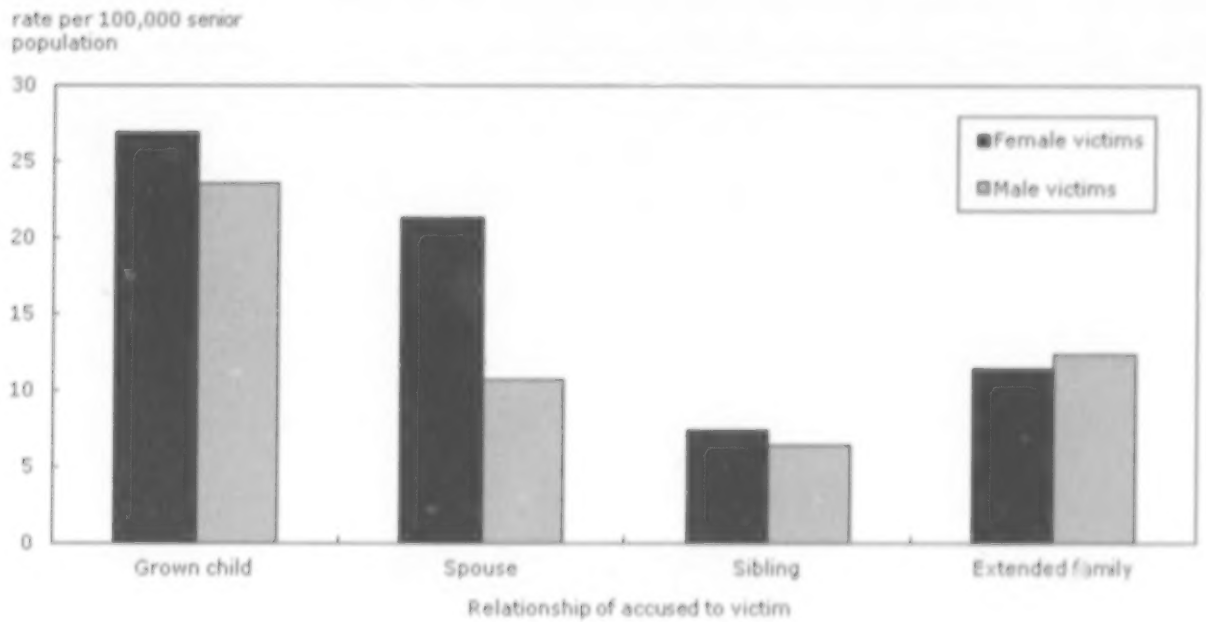
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

Family violence against seniors most often committed by a grown child

Previous research in the area of family-violence against seniors has found that those aged 65 and older are most at risk of being victimized by a grown child, a trend which continued in 2011. The police-reported rate of seniors victimized by a grown child was one and a half times higher than the rate victimized by spouses, who were the second most common perpetrators of family violence against seniors (Table 5.1).

While both senior females and senior males were most at risk of experiencing family violence at the hands of their child, there were some differences between the two groups. For example, the rate of senior females who were victimized by a spouse was almost double the rate for senior males (21 versus 11 per 100,000 population). In addition, despite having consistently lower rates of victimization compared to senior females, senior males were more likely to be victimized by an extended family member (Chart 5.5).

Chart 5.5
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and accused-victim relationship, Canada, 2011



Note: Grown child includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children. Includes a small number of victims where the relationship of the accused to the victim was recoded to grown child. Spouses include legally married, separated, divorced, common-law and same-sex partners. Sibling includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters. Extended family includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population of seniors aged 65 to 89. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Crime Reporting Survey.

Common assault most common type of family violence against seniors

Common assault, in which little or no physical injury is caused to the victim, was the most common form of family violence against seniors. In total, common assaults accounted for over one-half (52%) of family violence incidents, followed by uttering threats (20%) and serious assaults (12%). These were the most common forms among both men and women (Table 5.4).

Most family violence against seniors involves physical force or threats

Similar to violent crime in general, family violence against seniors was most likely to involve physical force or threats, rather than the use of a weapon. More specifically, well over half (58%) of family violence incidents against seniors involved the use of physical force, while more than one in four (26%) involved threats. Weapons were used in the remaining 16% of incidents (Table 5.5). These trends were similar for both senior males and females.

In general, most seniors were not physically injured as a result of the family violence they experienced. Close to two-thirds (62%) sustained no physical injuries, while 36% sustained minor physical injuries, which required no professional medical treatment. In total, 3% of seniors received a major physical injury or died as a result of the family violence. These proportions were similar among both men and women (Table 5.6).

Family violence against seniors most often results in charges

Previous studies have found that many violent acts against seniors may never be brought to the attention of the police, particularly in cases where the accused is a relative of the victim (Sev'er 2009). The under-reporting of family violence may be even more prominent among seniors who are isolated from people outside their families, resulting in diminished levels of formal detection (Teaster et al. 2006; Grama 2000).

When family violence against seniors does come to the attention of police, it most often results in charges being laid against the accused. More specifically, more than half (54%) of family violence incidents involving seniors resulted in police laying a charge against an accused, with incidents involving senior female victims resulting in charges slightly more often than incidents involving senior males (Table 5.7).

Close to 3 in 10 (29%) family violence incidents involving seniors were cleared by other means, such as the victim declining to lay charges and departmental discretion. The remaining 17% of family violence incidents against seniors that came to the attention of the police were not cleared.[2]

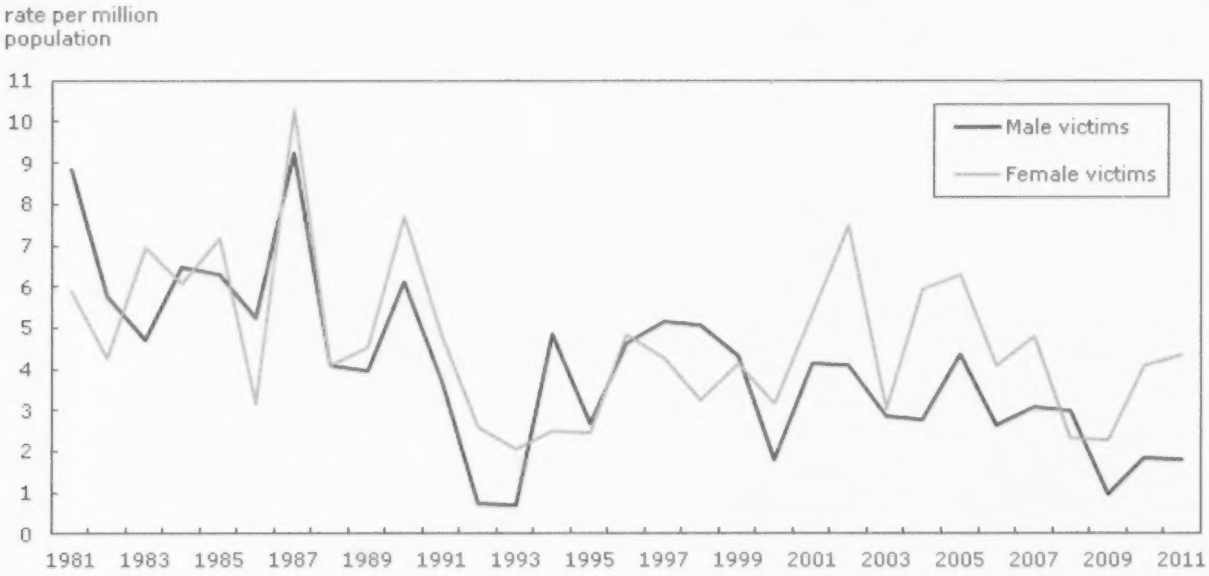
Rate of family-related homicide against seniors has decreased over past 30 years

Using data from the Homicide Survey, it is possible to look at the most serious form of violence against seniors and the motivating factors behind it. In 2011, the rate of family homicides against seniors was 3.2 per 1,000,000 population aged 65 and older. Despite annual fluctuations, the rate of seniors killed by a family member has declined over the past 30 years, falling 55% between 1981 and 2011. This drop in rates was driven primarily by a decreasing number of male victims. More specifically, the rate of family-homicide for senior males fell 80% between 1981 and 2011, while the drop in the rate for senior females was 26%.

Despite annual fluctuations, over the past 30 years, rates of family homicides have generally been higher among senior females compared to their male counterparts (Chart 5.6). In 2011, the rate of family homicides for senior women was more than double the rate for senior men (4.3 versus 1.8 per 1,000,000 population).

2. 'Not cleared' refers to incidents where an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident.

Chart 5.6
Senior victims of family-related homicide, by sex of victim, Canada, 1981 to 2011



Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 years and over. Excludes unsolved homicides, homicides where the victim-accused relationship and sex of the victim was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 1,000,000 population of seniors aged 65 and over. Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

In addition to collecting information on the prevalence of homicide in Canada, the Homicide Survey also collects information on the nature of homicide, including the motives behind the crime. Among the most common motives were feelings of frustration, anger or despair on the part of the accused (34%) and the escalation of an argument (25%) (Table 5.8).

Motives for family homicides differed based on the sex of the victim. For example, homicides motivated by frustration and anger were more common among senior females compared to senior males. More specifically, feelings of frustration and anger were cited as the motive in 41% of senior female homicides, compared to 19% of senior male homicides. In contrast, homicides involving male victims were often the outcome of an argument between the victim and accused (Table 5.8).

Summary

Similar to previous years, seniors had the lowest rates of family violence compared to every other age group. Rates varied by the sex and the age of the victim.

Following similar trends as violent crime overall, rates of family violence against seniors were highest in the western provinces and in the territories. Further, as in previous years, rates of family violence against seniors were higher in small towns and cities compared to census metropolitan areas.

Common assault was the most common type of family violence experienced by seniors, followed by uttering threats and serious assaults. Most incidents of family violence against seniors involved physical force or threats rather than a weapon, and most result in no physical injury to the victim. Homicide, the most serious form of family violence, has been decreasing among seniors over the past 30 years.

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Detailed data tables

Table 5.1
Senior victims of police-reported violent crime, by accused-victim relationship and sex of victim, Canada, 2011

Relationship of accused to victim	Female victims			Male victims			Total		
	number	percent	rate	number	percent	rate	number	percent	rate
Total family	**1,724**	**44**	**67**	**1,132**	**25**	**53**	**2,856**	**34**	**61**
Grown child[1]	692	18	27	503	11	24	1,195	14	25
Spouse[2]	548	14	21	228	5	11	776	9	16
Sibling[3]	190	5	7	136	3	6	326	4	7
Extended family[4]	294	8	11	265	6	12	559	7	12
Total friends, acquaintances, other	**1,320**	**34**	**51**	**2,002**	**44**	**94**	**3,322**	**39**	**70**
Casual Acquaintances	627	16	24	980	22	46	1,607	19	34
Neighbour	294	8	11	385	8	18	679	8	14
Business relationship[5]	206	5	8	336	7	16	542	6	11
Dating partner[6]	122	3	5	120	3	6	242	3	5
Friends	71	2	3	181	4	8	252	3	5
Stranger	856	22	33	1,417	31	66	2,273	27	48
Unknown	2	...	...	6	...	...	8	...	...
Total violence against seniors	**3,902**	**100**	**151**	**4,557**	**100**	**213**	**8,459**	**100**	**179**

... not applicable
1. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster children. Includes a small number of victims where the relationship of the accused to the victim was recoded to grown child.
2. Includes current and former legally married and common-law spouses.
3. Includes biological, step, adoptive and foster brothers and sisters.
4. Includes all other family members related by blood, marriage or adoption. Examples include grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.
5. Includes criminal relationships and authority figures.
6. Includes girlfriend/boyfriend (current and previous) and other intimate partners.
Note: Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Accused persons and victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.2
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim, province and territory, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Province and territory	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**	**number**	**rate[1]**
Newfoundland and Labrador	24	58	28	77	52	67
Prince Edward Island	3	25	7	70	10	46
Nova Scotia	51	63	52	78	103	70
New Brunswick	46	72	39	73	85	73
Quebec	433	66	260	49	693	58
Ontario	569	58	313	39	882	49
Manitoba	74	84	44	62	118	74
Saskatchewan	63	81	61	93	124	86
Alberta	171	81	122	68	293	75
British Columbia	243	69	178	57	421	63
Yukon	7	507	4	250	11	369
Northwest Territories	24	2,135	13	1,020	37	1,543
Nunavut	16	3,077	11	2,103	27	2,589
Canada	**1,724**	**67**	**1,132**	**53**	**2,856**	**61**

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.3
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and census metropolitan area, 2011

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1, 2]	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
	number	rate[3]	number	rate[3]	number	rate[3]
Gatineau[4]	21	111	4	26	25	73
Brantford	10	93	4	46	14	72
St. John's	7	55	9	90	16	71
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	24	72	19	69	43	71
Kelowna	14	80	9	59	23	70
Abbotsford-Mission	12	96	4	38	16	70
Moncton	5	46	8	95	13	68
Toronto[5]	264	76	137	50	401	64
Halifax	14	50	18	80	32	63
Vancouver	103	63	82	59	185	61
Kingston	10	72	5	45	15	60
Trois-Rivières	11	70	5	42	16	58
Montréal	200	66	108	46	308	57
Québec	45	67	20	39	65	55
Edmonton	41	58	29	50	70	54
Barrie	5	54	3	45	8	51
Guelph	7	78	1	15	8	51
Thunder Bay	9	81	1	11	10	50
Calgary	39	62	18	34	57	49
Saguenay	7	49	4	37	11	44
Saskatoon	8	47	5	38	13	43
Saint John	4	49	2	32	6	41
Peterborough	2	16	7	71	9	40
Regina	4	27	6	53	10	38
Victoria	17	51	5	18	22	36
Greater Sudbury	4	29	5	45	9	36
London	16	42	6	20	22	33
Winnipeg	22	40	6	14	28	29
Ottawa[6]	18	28	14	28	32	28
Windsor	7	30	3	16	10	24
Hamilton[7]	12	27	5	15	17	22
Sherbrooke	4	24	1	8	5	17
St. Catharines-Niagara	8	19	3	9	11	14
CMA total	**974**	**60**	**556**	**43**	**1,530**	**53**
Non-CMA total	**722**	**81**	**558**	**71**	**1,280**	**76**
Canada[8]	**1,724**	**67**	**1,132**	**53**	**2,856**	**61**

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.
3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 seniors (65 to 89 years). Populations based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
6. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
7. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the CMA of Hamilton.
8. The total for Canada includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing multiple CMAs. These police services are not represented in the CMA or non-CMA totals, and as a result, the total for Canada will not equal the sum of the CMAs and non-CMAs.

Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.4
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of offence, Canada, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Type of offence	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Homicide	11	0.6	4	0.4	15	0.5
Attempted murder	4	0.2	4	0.4	8	0.3
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3)	18	1.0	3	0.3	21	0.7
Physical assault						
Major assault (levels 2 and 3)	187	10.8	164	14.5	351	12.3
Common assault (level 1)	924	53.6	549	48.5	1,473	51.6
Other assaults[1]	22	1.3	23	2.0	45	1.6
Robbery	15	0.9	9	0.8	24	0.8
Extortion	20	1.2	14	1.2	34	1.2
Criminal harassment	84	4.9	49	4.3	133	4.7
Uttering threats	310	18.0	255	22.5	565	19.8
Indecent/harassing phone calls	89	5.2	42	3.7	131	4.6
Other violent offences[2]	40	2.3	16	1.4	56	2.0
Total	**1,724**	**100.0**	**1,132**	**100.0**	**2,856**	**100.0**

1. Other assaults include unlawfully causing bodily harm, criminal negligence causing bodily harm, using a firearm or imitation firearm in the commission of an offence, pointing a firearm, discharging firearm with intent, trap likely to cause bodily harm, assault (levels 1, 2, 3) against peace officer and other assaults.
2. Includes, for example, arson (disregard for human life), kidnapping, and other violent offences.
Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the victim's sex and/or age was unknown. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.5
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of weapon, Canada, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Type of weapon	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Threats or no weapon	419	26	281	26	700	26
Physical force	965	60	584	54	1,549	58
Weapon						
Club or blunt instrument	44	3	29	3	73	3
Knife or other piercing instrument	54	3	67	6	121	5
Firearm	19	1	17	2	36	1
Other weapon[1]	114	7	94	9	208	8
Unknown	109	...	60	...	169	...
Total	**1,724**	**100**	**1,132**	**100**	**2,856**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes, for example, explosives, fire, motor vehicle or poison.
Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown type of weapon. Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.6
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and level of injury, Canada, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Level of injury	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
No injuries[1]	1,004	61	671	62	1,675	62
Minor physical injuries[2]	584	36	395	36	979	36
Major physical injuries/death[3]	45	3	22	2	67	2
Unknown[4]	91	...	44	...	135	...
Total	**1,724**	**100**	**1,132**	**100**	**2,856**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes incidents that did not involve the use of weapons or physical force as well as those in which no visible injuries were noted by police.
2. Refers to injuries that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (e.g., bandage, ice).
3. Refers to injuries that required professional medical attention at the scene or transportation to a medical facility or injuries that result in death.
4. Unknown injuries have been excluded in the calculation of percentages.
Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown injuries. Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the victim was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.7
Senior victims of police-reported family violence, by sex of victim and type of clearance status, Canada, 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Type of clearance status	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Not cleared[1]	297	17	184	16	481	17
Cleared by charge	955	55	587	52	1,542	54
Cleared otherwise	472	27	361	32	833	29
Complainant requests charges not be laid	287	17	235	21	522	18
Reasons beyond the control of department	47	3	39	3	86	3
Departmental discretion	112	6	75	7	187	7
Other[2]	26	2	12	1	38	1
Total	**1,724**	**100**	**1,132**	**100**	**2,856**	**100**

1. 'Not cleared' refers to incidents where an accused person has not been identified in connection with the incident.
2. 'Cleared by other means' includes suicide of accused, death of accused, death of witness/complainant, accused is less than 12 years of age, committal of accused to mental hospital, accused in foreign country, accused involved in other incidents, accused already sentenced, diversionary programs, incidents cleared by a lesser statute, incident cleared by other municipal/provincial/federal agency.
Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 to 89 years. Family violence refers to violence committed by spouses (legally married, separated, divorced and common-law partners), children, siblings, and extended family. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of victim was unknown and where the relationship between the victim and the accused was unknown. Victims aged 90 years and older are excluded from analyses due to instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5.8
Senior victims of family-related homicide, by sex of victim and type of motive, Canada, 2001 to 2011

	Female victims		Male victims		Total	
Type of motive	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**	**number**	**percent**
Frustration, anger or despair	46	41	10	19	56	34
Argument	23	21	19	35	42	25
No apparent motive[1]	18	16	15	28	33	20
Financial gain[2]	7	6	3	6	10	6
Mercy killing or assisted suicide	7	6	1	2	8	5
Revenge	3	3	2	4	5	3
Jealousy	2	2	2	4	4	2
Other[3]	5	5	2	4	7	4
Unknown	11	...	5	...	16	...
Total	**122**	**100**	**59**	**100**	**181**	**100**

... not applicable
1. Includes, for example, mental illness and dementia.
2. Includes, for example, robberies and homicides committed to obtain insurance monies or inheritances.
3. Includes, for example, fear of apprehension and personal protection.
Note: Senior victims refer to those aged 65 years and over. Excludes unsolved homicides, homicides where the victim-accused relationship and sex of the victim was unknown. Percentages have been calculated excluding unknown motives. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Survey descriptions

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey
The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey collects detailed information on criminal incidents that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationships) and accused persons (age, sex). In 2011, data from police services covered 99% of the population of Canada.

The UCR2 Trend Database (2009 to 2011) represents 99% of police services in Canada. Analysis of this three-year trend database is limited to only those offences that have complete victim records and where UCR offence classification has remained constant over the three-year period. For the purpose of this *Juristat* article, the offences included in the trend analysis include attempted murder, physical assault (levels 1, 2, and 3) and sexual assault (levels 1, 2, and 3).

Homicide Survey
The Homicide Survey collects detailed information on all homicides that have come to the attention of, and have been substantiated by, Canadian police services. Information includes characteristics pertaining to incidents (weapon, location), victims (age, sex, accused-victim relationship), and accused persons (age, sex). Coverage for the Homicide Survey has represented 100% of the population since recording began in 1961. The count for a particular year represents all homicides reported in that year, regardless of when the death actually occurred.